

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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## A CASTAWAY

By F. B. Meyer

"Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."—I Cor. 9:27.

Paul was too eager and too practical a man to dally with a boggy dread. Since then he intimates that it was his daily fear lest, after having preached to others, he might himself be a castaway, I suppose that there were but few hours in his life when this dread did not haunt him. After he had founded so many churches, written so many epistles, and exercised so wide-spread an influence, in his quiet moments he was perpetually face to face with this awful nightmare, that the day might come when he would be a castaway; and the thought drove him almost to madness. When he was traveling over the blue Aegean, when he was sitting making his tents, when he was engaged in dictating his epistles, the thought would come back and back upon his heart: "I may yet be a castaway."

Have you ever feared this? I am not sure that a man ever reaches his highest development without something of the element of fear, and I ask you now if in your life you know something of this haunting dread? May I confess to you that it has become a great dread of my own? and if many days pass, and no one writes to tell me of help derived from my ministry, and no one comes to join our church, and no one seems to be influenced by my life or word, I sit myself down and say:

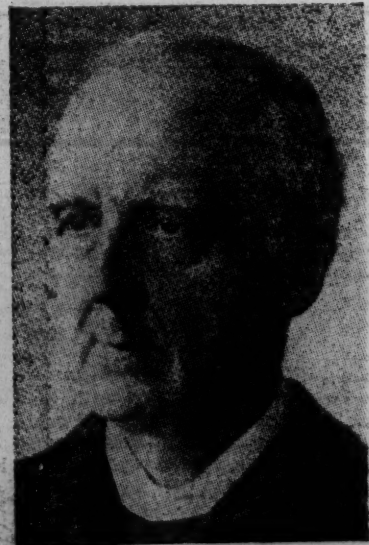
"Good God, has the time come at last to me when for some reason I, too, am to be a castaway?"

And reverently, humbly, but most searchingly, I ask you, my hearer, whether it may not be possible that this very moment you are already a castaway.

"A Castaway"—In What Sense?

Is it to be supposed for a moment that the apostle thought that when once the believer has fled to Christ he can be cast out into the outer darkness where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth? Is it possible for a limb to be torn from the mystical body of Christ, for a jewel to be snatched from out of His crown, for a sheep to be devoured from His flock? Are there any unfinished pictures in God's gallery, any incomplete statues in His workshop? Does God begin a work in the soul and leave it incomplete and unperfected? We cannot believe it.

It is said of Rowland Hill, my great predecessor at Christ Church, London, that when an old man of eighty-four and just before he died, one Sunday night when the lights had been put out in Surrey Chapel, the verger in attendance heard him go to and fro in the aisle, singing to himself:



F. B. Meyer

F. B. Meyer of Christ Church, London, was one of God's great gifts to the Christian Church. He was one of the pulpit masters of his day and of all time. As a writer of devotional and expository material, he remains unsurpassed.

Although, for the most part, his pastorates were in England, Dr. Meyer was a frequent visitor to the United States and Canada. At the age of eighty, he conducted his twelfth American preaching campaign, travelling more than 15,000 miles. During his long and fruitful life, he preached more than 16,000 sermons. Dr. Meyer was the author of many books, including his well-known eleven Old Testament volumes and six New Testament volumes of Biblical exposition.

"When I am to die, 'Receive me'—I'll cry,  
For Jesus has loved me, I cannot tell why;  
But this I do find, we two are so joined,  
He'll not be in heaven and leave me behind."

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, if it is directed toward Christ, a union has been formed between Him and you which neither Heaven nor earth nor Hell nor time nor eternity can ever break.

And yet the apostle feared he  
(Continued on page 9)

## THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

Many readers say that they read "The Editor's Notes" first in THE SWORD OF THE LORD and I write some notes about my activities so that friends may pray for me more definitely. Please remember all mail to me should be addressed to Wheaton, Illinois.

### Tennessee Temple Schools Opening

Yesterday I returned from a night with the great Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Dr. Lee Roberson pastor, and with the Tennessee Temple Schools; Bible school, college and seminary. The occasion Monday night, September 10, was the beginning of Evening School. Despite the rain a large crowd comfortably filled the big auditorium. I suppose there were fifteen to seventeen hundred people present. It was expected that eight hundred people would enroll for some of the twenty-nine evening classes per week. Governor Browning of Tennessee was to follow me the next night.

Already close to six hundred were enrolled in the day schools in the new semester. There should be an increase in the day schools of at least one hundred. Already dormitories for girls were filled and the school was seeking rooms in homes. The new Christian grammar school just opened was full. The church also promotes Zion Bible College for colored people and a city rescue mission. This great church baptized last year some 1168 new converts. I count it a joy to have my membership there. I will return, God willing, next April for their annual Bible conference. Dr. Roberson will be with us at the Sword conference at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, and at Siloam Springs, Arkansas, next summer. I had dinner with the Roberson family with very sweet fellowship and appreciate the opportunity of having some part in the opening of the great schools.

South to Ocean Springs, Miss. and Pensacola, Fla.

This is the last day at home for  
(Continued on page 8)

### WHAT THEN?

When all the great plants of our cities,  
Have turned out their last finished work;  
When our merchants have made the last bargain,  
And dismissed the last tired clerk;  
When our banks have raked in the last dollar,  
And have paid out the last dividend;  
When the Judge of Earth says,  
"Close for the Night!"  
And asks for a Balance,—WHAT THEN?

When the choir has sung its last anthem,  
And the preacher has said his last prayer;  
When the people have heard their last sermon,  
And the sound has died out on the air;  
When the Bible lies closed on the pulpit,  
And the pews are all empty of men;  
When each one stands facing his record,  
And the Great Book is opened,—WHAT THEN?

When the actors have played their last drama,  
And the mimic has made his last fun;  
When the movies have flashed the last picture,  
And the billboard displayed its last run;  
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished,  
And have gone into darkness again;  
And the world that rejected its Saviour,  
Is asked for a reason,—WHAT THEN?

When the bugle's last call sinks in silence,  
And the long marching columns stand still;  
When the captain has given his last order,  
And they've captured the last fort and hill;  
When the flag has been hauled from the masthead,  
When the Trumpet of Ages is sounded,  
And the wounded afire have checked in;  
And we stand up before Him,—WHAT THEN?

—Author not known.

Credit to Impressions, by W. A. Blackwell, Chicago

## The Greatest Text in the Bible

By Evangelist E. J. Daniels, D.D.

(Sermon delivered over Christ For The World Broadcast)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

For the next few minutes I want to bring you a message right out of my heart on, "The Greatest Text in the Bible." Ask anyone whom you will which Bible passage is generally the best known, the best loved, and by most people considered the greatest, and they will answer, "John 3:16." Someone has said that if every other passage in the Bible were thrown away, and only John 3:16 left that we would still have enough simple gospel to save the whole world. It is without doubt one of the clearest and richest statements in the blessed Book on the way of salvation.

This matchless passage contains the four greatest things in the world (1) The world's greatest love and Lover: "God so loved the world;" (2) The world's greatest gift: "That He gave His only begotten Son;" (3) The world's greatest offer: "That whosoever believeth on Him;" and (4) The world's greatest blessing: "Should not perish but have everlasting life."

### I. John 3:16 Contains the World's Greatest Love and Lover—"God So Loved The World"

Someone has said that the greatest lover of our day is former King Edward, who gave up the throne of one of the greatest empires on earth to marry a third-handed woman. They think that he condescended to do that, and proved his love in a sacrificial way. But, my friends, God is an infinitely greater lover than Edward, for we are infinitely more unworthy of His love than Wally Simpson could have even been of King Edward. God is the King of all the universe, and we but outcast sinners against high heaven. Yet, God loved us enough to

send His only begotten Son to die for us. Therefore, He is the world's greatest lover.

### Greatest Love

Then God's love is the greatest love in the world. It has been said that no love equals a mother's love. Indeed it is a great

(Continued on page 5)



E. J. Daniels

## MODERN YOUTH: Don't Be a Guinea Pig

By Jack Wyrzten  
Director, Word of Life Fellowship

The entire nation has been shocked to hear about the high school youth of New York City becoming drug addicts by the thousands. One 16-year-old high school girl (and she was typical of many) said, "In 1948 I smoked a reefer at a high school dance. Later on, in the same year, my boy friend and I got cocaine and reefers. In 1949, we broke into a home to steal money to buy more dope." By 1950, at 16 years of age, this girl had become a "woman of the streets."

In the beginning of the investigation it was estimated that there were about 1500 narcotic users in New York City's high schools. Later on, the figure rose to 5,000 and one figure given out estimated that one out of every 200 high school kids in the New York area were dope fiends and that this plague is even spreading through New York's grammar schools. This report has shocked everyone except those who love the Saviour and read the Bible for the Bible says in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. . . ."

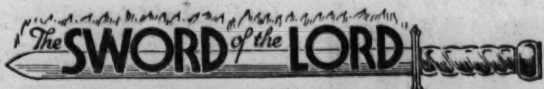
### Where It Starts

Today, in America, we boast of the fact that we now manufacture 510,000,000,000 cigarettes a year. That is enough for every boy and

girl; every young person; every mother, father, grandmother and grandfather, to smoke 10 cigarettes a day—every day of the year. Today, cigarette companies even furnish our high schools with free-football programs with cigarette advertisements spread all over them. We boast of the fact that we are now drinking five and one-half quarts of hard liquor, per capita. In this narcotic investigation, one of the teenagers testified that she had smoked her first reefer at a high school dance, and as a minister of the Gospel, I would like to warn you mothers and fathers about these so-called "innocent" chaperoned high school proms! As you know, before I was saved, I used to lead a dance orchestra and I know all about the gin bottles that are passed around at high school proms; I know all about the

(Continued on page 2)





AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, D.D., Litt.D., Editor and Publisher  
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GRACE RICE MACMULLEN, Circulation Manager

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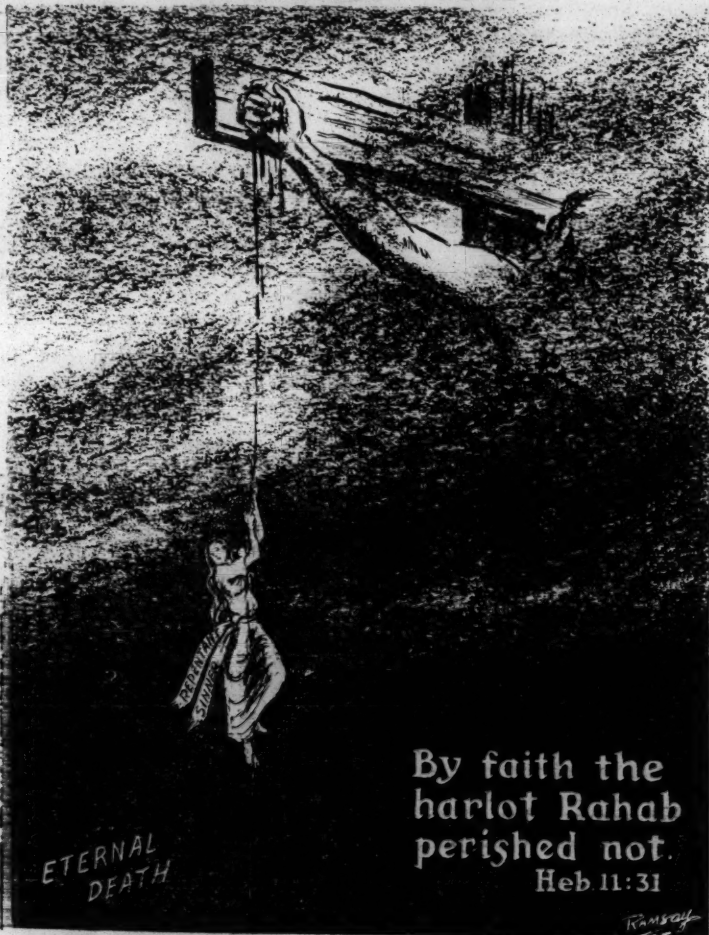
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## The Gospel at a Glance

By Charles L. Ramsay

### THE SCARLET CORD



Another original Christian cartoon by Charles L. Ramsay, SWORD OF THE LORD cartoonist. Ramsay's 101 Christian Cartoons, with helpful comments, is now available. Sent postpaid \$1 a copy. Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Ill.

## Modern Youth

(Continued from page 1)

parked cars on the way home—the necking parties—and their evil results. I suppose you are conscious of the fact that every year, in the United States, one-quarter of a million high school girls go from the high school desk to the maternity ward.

Little wonder this present scandal, when the Bible has been voted out of our high schools and colleges. Many school boards refuse to even allow their high schools to be used for a Gospel meeting. Today, the Bible is laughed at in our schools—being called, "out of date; full of myths and fairy tales and cunning devised fables." Schools are teaching evolution and mocking the church. Little wonder, with all the atheistic teaching going on in our high schools, that 92% of the young people of New York City never even darkened the door of any church—Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant—from one end of the year to another, and New York is just about typical of every city in America.

The other day I noticed in a New York City subway two advertisements on either side of the door. On the right side was a picture of a beautiful girl with a cigarette stuck in her mouth; on the left side was a picture of a fine-looking young couple, each with a glass of booze in their hand, and some slogan about what this particular brand of booze would do for you. As I looked at the advertisement, I thought, "What a liar the Devil is. How the Devil likes to dress up sin as something beautiful, alluring and attractive."

But—mark you—no matter how beautiful, alluring or attractive the Devil and his gang paint up sin—sin is still the Devil's bait to drag young men and women down into the pit of Hell! As I looked at these booze and cigarette advertisements, I thought of some of the cigarette fiends I have dealt with behind prison bars; I thought of some of the drunken derelicts I have dealt with down in the Bowery. These were the finished products when the Devil was all through with them. I would like to put pictures of men like these on our advertisements—the finished products—with a slogan, "This is what our product will do for you when it is all finished." If they would let me handle their advertising, I guarantee I could run everyone of them out of business. Just by telling the truth!

What a mess our nation is in today, with one out of every three marriages ending in the divorce courts; with one out of eight babies born illegitimately; with liquor, cigarette and dope flowing like a river.

#### How to Clean It Up

In Psalm 119:9 the psalmist asked the question, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" Then the psalmist answers the question, "... by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Friend, there is one way of cleansing—there is only one way out of this prison of sin that millions are living in today and that way is the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Only Son! "For if the Son shall

## Dr. Carey Thomas Heads New Seminary

The appointment of Dr. Carey Thomas as acting president of the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver has been announced by Dr. I. C. Peterson of Chicago, Chairman of the Seminary's Board of Trustees. Dr. Peterson has also announced the appointment of the Rev. Vernon Grounds as dean. Dr. Thomas will replace Dr. William Whittemore of Ft. Collins, who has served as acting president during the past year, while Mr. Grounds will replace Dr. William Kerr.

Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Altoona, Pennsylvania, for 25 years, Dr. Thomas has long been an outstanding leader in Christian circles. One of the founders of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been prominent in the activities of the National Association of Evangelicals and has held the presidency of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. A reception in his honor is being arranged by the Seminary for late in September.

Mr. Grounds is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers University of New Jersey. He received his B. D. degree at Faith Theological Seminary and has done his graduate work for the Ph. D. at Drew Theological Seminary. After serving as pastor in Paterson, New Jersey, for ten years, he joined the faculty of the Baptist Bible Seminary in New York where he occupied the office of dean from 1945 until this. He will be installed in his new position at the Fall Convocation.

The Conservative Seminary started last September, organized to train young people for evangelical Baptist ministry throughout the world. It has already attracted students from all parts of the United States. Its second year will open officially on September 17.

#### Question:

**How should a Christian be like Columbus?**

Answer on page 7

make you free, ye shall be free indeed." These are days when we should heed the admonition of the Apostle Paul when he said to Timothy, "... flee youthful lusts." We need to follow the example of men like Joseph of the Old Testament who, at the age of 19, being tempted to sin by Potiphar's wife, knew what it was to "flee youthful lusts," to run away from sin. He lost his cloak in the bargain and went to jail, but he was true to God; and God raised him up to become ruler over the nation. We need young men today like Daniel, who "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy Word." But friend, you must take heed! You must do something about it! You must make a choice.

#### The Way of Life or Death

Sometime ago, we were up in the northern part of the State of Pennsylvania conducting a Youth Rally. The place was crowded to the doors with people standing all around the side and back of the auditorium. All during the message two high school fellows, (seniors in high school), were poking one another, whispering and talking and doing everything in their power to break up the meeting. When I came to the invitation and asked everyone to bow his head while I invited people to give their hearts to Jesus Christ, these two fellows acted up, more than ever, and they were sure making a success of disturbing the meeting. One of the personal workers walked around the back of them, put his arms around these two fellows and said, "It is high time you fellows quit playing around with eternal realities; it is high time you fellows got right with

## Bob Jones Says—



Even as a book of human interest the Bible is the most remarkable Book in the world. There is no story in all literature more human than the story of the prodigal son. He was restless. He chafed under the restraint. He wanted his own way. He wanted what was coming to him. He longed to travel. He spent money gratifying his appetite and passion. He made a mess of his life. He found himself at the end of his road. He was a "down-and-outer."

Multiplied millions of us human beings have gone the way he went and made the sort of mess of life he made. The redeeming thing about the prodigal son was that he was able to see himself. Sitting at the root of a tree or on the rocks of a hillside, he set himself out in front of himself and looked himself in the face. Men are naturally far-sighted. People were studying astronomy and measuring the distance between the planets before they understood the circulation of the blood. There is no hope for a sinner as long as he justifies his sinning. The world is filled with "buck passers." "I have bad blood in me." "My environment hasn't been right." "I was weak." "I am as good as the church people." "I am no worse than other folks." How many times I have heard these statements! Not one word like this fell from the lips of the prodigal son. He blamed nobody but himself. There is no hope for a sinner until he reaches the point reached by the prodigal son, when he saw himself as he was and blamed nobody but himself for his degradation and shame.

"I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son, make me as one of thy hired servants." I do not know whether the prodigal son wept or whether he made that resolution with dry eyes. Christianity is not a matter of tears. It is possible to wet the road to hell with tears of human emotion. What a glorious moment it was when a poor, wrecked, rag-

ged, hungry wretch, who had wasted a fortune on riotous living, pulled his dissipated manhood together and said, "I will go back to my father. I will not ask to be a son. I don't deserve to be a son. I will ask to be a hired servant. When I left him I asked for my rights. Now, I will ask for mercy. I will ask him for any kind of place he can give me." The old father, no doubt, was praying for the boy that very moment. Parental love is in many ways the strongest love the human heart ever knew. "I love my baby who died sixty years ago as well as I did the last time it nestled its curly head in my bosom," a grey-headed grandmother said one day. But stronger than the love of mother or father for a wandering child is the love of God for lost sinners. When we were sinners, Christ died for us. The father did not force the son to come home. God does not force sinners to come to Him. No man can fellowship with God and walk the streets of gold under a cloudless sky in eternity until he lays down his arms of rebellion against God and God's plan of redemption. God wants to save all men. He does not will the death of any man, but would rather all would come to Him and live. But God wants saved men in heaven and not unsaved men. There was war in heaven at one time and God does not propose to have rebellion there again. We say God invites all men to come. In a sense that is true. In another sense, it is not true. He really invites those who will to come. "Whosoever will, let him come." That is what God said.

God by giving your hearts to Jesus Christ." One of them bowed his head and said, "Mister, I think you're right." He walked to the front of the auditorium and gave his heart to the Saviour. The other fellow stamped brazenly out of the church, putting a cigarette in his mouth even before he got out the door. He was a well-to-do young fellow, had a roadster of his own, and down the highway he went. He stopped in at one of those cheap, dirty, devilish roadhouses and picked up a young lady (Sunday School teacher, if you please). What she was ever doing in that roadhouse, I do not know. They spent the rest of the evening dancing, smoking and drinking together. On the way home, he stopped the car on a lonely highway. Another necking party started and he tried to attack her, but she resisted. He grabbed the jack handle, hit her over the head and killed her. The

next morning he was wanted for murder.

One of these young men heeded the invitation and started for Heaven. The other is spending his life behind prison bars. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy Word." I wonder young fellow—young lady—are you ready to "take heed" right now? Are you ready to say, "No" to sin, "NO" to the Devil and his crowd? Are you ready to say an eternal "Yes" to God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ? Will you choose Christ today and start for Heaven right now? If so, bow your head and invite the Saviour to come into your heart.

(Sample copies of this timely message, written by Jack Wyrzten, attractively printed in a two-color folder, are available by writing the AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY, 21 West 46th Street, New York 19, N. Y.)

## Dr. Bob Jones Jr., Says:

Bob Jones University has just opened its twenty-fifth session. At the beginning of this silver anniversary year, I have been more than ever impressed with the value of our Student Loan Endowment Fund. There are hundreds of young people training for Christian service here now who would not have been able to enter school this year without the assistance of this Fund. You friends who have helped us build the Fund would be grateful beyond measure if you could talk to some of the students here and hear their testimony as they express their appreciation for the loan your gifts have made possible. More students need help now than needed it a year ago. More than ever it is essential that

we rapidly realize the million-dollar goal we have set.

If you have not had a share in building this Fund, won't you join the other friends now? If you have given in the past, let me urge you to provide in your budgeting of the Lord's money for a regular contribution to the Student Loan Endowment Fund.

My father, who is in the hospital and facing an eventual operation, usually writes these appeals; but I consider it a privilege to bring this Fund to your attention. May God bless you.

BOB JONES, JR., President  
Bob Jones University  
Greenville, S. C.  
(Advertisement)



# Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy And Modern Civilization Cannot Prevent Revival

- I. Mankind's Spiritual Conditions and Apostasy Are Not Worse Than in Bible Times When God Gave Great Revivals
- II. Failures in New Testament Times Could Not Prevent All Great Revivals Since
- III. The Dark Ages Could Not Prevent the Reformation Revival
- IV. Wickedness and Unbelief Could Not Prevent the Great Modern Revivals

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."  
—Luke 10:2.

The God whom some people worship is old and tired. The present-day civilization is entirely too much for Him! Maybe He could one time give great revivals, but He cannot any more. Mankind has simply gotten to be worse than that old-fashioned God can handle—the God of some people's faith. The only thing that God and the people of little faith and little passion who serve Him can do is to retreat from the world. Such people on every hand can only read the newspaper reports of atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, the spread of communism, modernism among church leaders, and say, "Jesus is bound to come very, very soon!" These Christians and their gospel are not adequate to face and meet the conditions in this world; so they, in defeated despair, do not "watch" in the Scriptural sense, do not "occupy till I come," as Jesus commanded, but rather they study technical details and speculate upon the Antichrist, and whether Russia is now forming the great northern confederacy (Gog and Magog of Ezekiel).

Christians with belief in that kind of a defeated God can have no great revivals. Rather, they are like the remnant of the British army at Dunkirk, surrounded and hounded and being cut to pieces by the German blitzkrieg, and waiting only to be taken from the beaches by British boats, to escape annihilation! So many Christians look for the rapture as a last resort of a God who cannot cope with the present world, in a Christianity which is more or less out-of-date, very nice for a few who have it but inadequate to reach multitudes, to shake and change cities and nations and save millions!

Can you see the wickedness, the near-blasphemy of that kind of an attitude toward God and the gospel? How God must be grieved by our defeated unbelief about revivals!

I thank God that I look for the Saviour's coming. But I look for His coming because He said for me to look for Him, not because I read about the hydrogen bombs in the newspapers! I look for the dear Saviour's coming and my heart will leap with unmeasured joy to see His face; but I know what will rejoice His heart and I am trying to do that. He wants sinners saved and left me to do this task while I await His coming.

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Dr. John R. Rice

In this lecture I want to show that present-day wickedness and unbelief is not worse than in Bible times when God gave great revivals; that all great revivals since were not prevented by the failures of Christianity in Bible times; that the awful Dark Ages could not prevent the Reformation and its marvelous revival; that wickedness and depravity everywhere could not prevent the greatest revivals

## Pentecostal Minister Shocked at Attack on Sword Editor

We are deeply grateful for the kind words of Rev. John W. Sullivan of 2712 N. Verity Parkway, Middletown, Ohio. In a letter of September 6, Brother Sullivan writes:

"My dear Dr. Rice:  
Greetings to you by way of Calvary!

"I have been away from my home and pulpit for the past six weeks, ministering in camp meetings. So, I just recently, in an effort to catch up with my mail, opened THE SWORD for August 10th, 1951. I was startled, surprised and shocked to see such a vehement attack on such an outstanding man of God as I believe you to be. I refer to the letter from Mr. Donald S. Taylor. The spirit of that letter is altogether unchristian. I commend you for the moderation used in your reply.

"If any one has a right to criticize you, I have that right. I am a Pentecostal minister, baptised with the Holy Spirit and actually did and do speak with tongues. If any one has taken us to task, made us search our hearts, our experiences and our lives it has been you! You have, as you have a right to do, launched some rather strong meat against us. Yet, not for one minute have I ever heard a Pentecostal minister, and I know hundreds of them, ever express any sentiment other than kindness toward you and an admiration for your strong defense of the gospel. Your trumpet gives no uncertain sound on the holy and beloved doctrines and preachings on the essentials of salvation.

"I have been a reader of THE SWORD for many years. Your staff of preachers are solid, sincere, fundamental and able. Of course, I might add, I wish you could see things our way, but that can come only through and by the leadership of the Spirit Himself.

"This is just a line to express confidence and admiration. I regret the heart anguish and remorse you must have suffered.

"I merely join the thousands of others and the many who have already written you to express my affection for and confidence in, you and your fine Christian publication!

"Yours because of Calvary,"  
(Signed) John W. Sullivan

in modern times. The Christ, the gospel, the Holy Spirit, the promises, which were adequate in other days are adequate now. All of modern wickedness, apostasy and distraction cannot prevent revival.

## I. Mankind's Spiritual Conditions and Apostasy Are Not Worse Than in Bible Times when God Gave Great Revivals

Those who believe that men are more wicked and the days are more desperate now than in New Testament times have simply failed to see the picture clearly given in the New Testament of human wickedness and failure, and have under-estimated the power of the New Testament gospel and Spirit-filled New Testament Christians.

First, consider that man was then the unregenerated, depraved sinner—as alien from God then as now. To a leading Pharisee it was that Jesus insisted, "Ye must be born again." He taught Nicodemus that which is born of the flesh is only flesh, and cannot see the kingdom of God; that the new birth was the only chance to avoid Hell. He told the nicest church people of their time—tithers, praying, law-abiding, religious people—"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do" (John 8:44). To them He said, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33). He said that all the civilization, all the religious forms and ceremonies they observed were only the white-wash on sepulchres filled with dead men's bones and all uncleanness. He likened the hearts of these outwardly righteous Pharisees to decaying, stinking bodies. The hearts of men in Bible times were no better than the hearts of men today.

Paul wrote to the converts at Ephesus, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Lost sinners then were not only wicked, they were spiritually dead. They had in them no power to be good or to do good, though they might put on the outward appearance of goodness. It is hard to see how a race that is totally bad can get any worse, or how a man who is dead can get any deader. The Bible clearly pictures that men by nature—in Bible times the same as now—are utterly incapable of saving themselves or of doing good. It would take a miracle of God's grace, the new birth, to make men into the children of God. If you believe the foolish chatter of the Christ-rejecting modernists that all men are by nature the children of God, then you do not believe the Bible, and your conception is fundamentally unchristian and anti-Christian. Men, according to the Bible, are a fallen race, alien from God and enemies of God by nature. But they were so in Bible times the same as now.

Don't you see that if the gospel could reach and save such men in Bible times, it can reach them now? There is nothing in the nature of wicked men that can prevent great revivals. The gospel of Jesus Christ is enough for the hardest sinners now as it was when some of those who crucified Jesus Christ were converted and when Paul the persecutor found Christ on the road to Damascus. The gospel that could save Mary Magdalene, possessed of seven devils, and chief priests who mocked Jesus while He died, is today the gospel which can reach the hardest human heart, if it be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit by men who will pay God's price for revival.

And consider, please, how in New Testament times flood tides of persecution rose everywhere that the gospel was preached in power. If you think that opposition to the gospel is stronger now than in Bible times, you have very carelessly read your New Testament. The inhabitants of Christ's own home village in Galilee knew and honored Jesus for years, un-

til He was filled with the Spirit and began His public ministry. Then the first day He spoke in the power of God in their synagogue they "rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong" (Luke 4:29). John the Baptist had his head cut off. The Lord Jesus Himself was crucified. Stephen, one of the first seven deacons, was martyred for the faith. Right in the midst of the blessed revival which began at Pentecost was much persecution, and Peter and John were arrested and thrown in jail. Early church traditions say that every one of the twelve apostles save John the beloved died a martyr's death. We know that Paul barely escaped from Damascus with his life, that he was stoned at Lystra and left for dead, that he spent some years in jail and finally was taken in chains to Rome. After years as a prisoner, Paul seems to have been released for a little while, then arrested again and finally was beheaded under Nero.

Do you think there is opposition today to the gospel? Why, it was a customary thing for Paul and his companions to be run out of town! In Acts 13:50 we are told, "But the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts." That was after the Jews were filled with envy and there was much contradiction and blaspheming, and Paul had said to them, "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:45, 46). At Philippi, Paul and Silas had their clothes torn off, were beaten and placed in jail in stocks. In answer to prayer, God shook the jail, doors opened and the jailer was wonderfully saved. But the officers and people "besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city" (Acts 16:39). Paul and Silas had to slip out of Thessalonica by night to save their skins; then when the tumult reached Berea, Paul had to slip away, pretending to go to the sea. At cultured Athens they mocked Paul. In the synagogue at Corinth they opposed and blasphemed, and Paul said, "From henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6). Paul was seized by a mob in a riot, and another riot filled Ephesus with confusion when Paul went there!

The simple truth is that we can have revival today if we are willing to preach the gospel as they did and suffer persecution as they did. If there were a few people willing to be martyrs for Christ, then the blood of the martyrs would be the seed of the church now, as it has always been.

We hear on every hand foolish statements like, "The foreign mission fields are closing." What do men mean by such statements? They simply mean that there are some nations in the world where the government will not protect a missionary, and someone may hit him in the head with a stone. There are some nations in which soul winners may be persecuted. Well, in that sense, then, the whole world was a closed mission field when Paul began his missionary journeys. If men will not be missionaries unless they can have their whole family with them, have every comfort of life, have regular support of a certain amount of money, and have a guarantee that no one will ever stone them or burn down their house, then of course there will be some places where men cannot preach the gospel with such ease and protection. But in Bible times men expected to suffer for Christ when they went out to have a revival. We should expect the same kind of opposition now.

Actually the opposition in Bible times did not stop revivals. Neither does the opposition today stop revivals. What hinders revival is

(Continued on page 4)



# WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

EVANGELIST DOUGLAS WINN has just concluded two weeks of meetings with the Christian Tabernacle in Canton, where thirty-six were saved. The evangelist reports several happy incidents of the campaign. One night after the benediction a young man was so heavily under conviction that he returned to the church to be saved. A young unsaved lady left the church and went up the street screaming. A United Brethren preacher ran forward at the close of one service, fell on his face confessing his sins.

We praise God for the faithful preaching of Evangelist Douglas Winn, and for the good meetings, with many saved, which God gives him continually.

In August Brother Winn was with the Bethany Baptist Church, Bellflower, California. The pastor, Rev. Dale Huffman, reports a fine revival there, saying, "We set several marks. One was in high attendance for Sunday School. We had seventeen additions, which was a grand blessing to our church."

EVANGELIST F. A. WIRTH of Petersburg, Illinois, conducted a revival the last two weeks of August in the Nordyke Baptist Mission, Indianapolis, Indiana. Twenty-one accepted Christ; six others consecrated their lives to His service. His schedule for the next few weeks is as follows: Calvary Bible Church, Macomb, Illinois, Sept. 23-Oct. 7; Bluff Avenue Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Oct. 14-28; Good News Mission, Indianapolis, Oct. 29-Nov. 3; the Bible Church, Indianapolis, Nov. 4-18. Be sure to hear this man of God if you are near where he will be in revival services.

EVANGELIST FREDERICK BILLINGS, former pastor of Galian Baptist Church, Dallas, reports he recently concluded services at a youth camp near Cold Springs, Texas. Seven High School students accepted Christ and others pledged a deeper walk with the Lord. Evangelist Billings dealt personally with a Texas Tech. University student for two hours. He decided for Christ. The camp is conducted yearly by Rev. Gordon Whitlock of Houston, Texas. Rev. Billings has been invited back for next year. At present he is in a meeting with Rev. Herbert Lane, pastor of Moss Bluff Chapel, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Pray for this fine evangelist as he enters the wide-open harvest field.

EVANGELIST JESSE M. HENDLEY of Atlanta, Georgia, is being mightily blessed of God in large union revival campaigns. In a personal letter to the editor, Dr. Hendley in reporting on two of his recent campaigns, says:

"You will be happy to learn that God has given us our greatest summer since we launched out into evangelistic work. In fact, I think the campaign at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and at Richmond, Virginia, were the greatest since the Athens and Atlanta campaigns.

"In Lancaster we had a wonderful victory. There were over 800 people who came forward at the invitation, with 513 definite decisions for Christ....

"At Richmond, God gave us another great victory. It was a union campaign in both instances, and in this meeting there were some 625 souls who responded to the invitation. It was a real revival with a wonderful spirit pervading the meetings. Entire families were saved. I walked out from under the tent one night and there was a group of friends weeping. I asked them if there were any trouble. One lady spoke up, 'No, Preacher, but our entire family has been saved. There are three sisters, two brothers, and a brother-in-law, and last night our other sister came to the Lord.'

"The Lord awakened lost church members also. On Monday night of the second week, the superintendent of the Sunday School of

the leading church went to his pastor's home, rapped on the door, and when the pastor came, he said, 'Preacher, I have never been saved, and I want to talk to you.' The preacher invited him in, and dealt with him, and he came to the Lord. He was really and truly regenerated. He stood before that tremendous audience, and with tears rolling down his cheeks, said, 'Friends, now I know I am saved, because I have a real testimony. I am witnessing to the fellows on the job where I work.' He was a different man entirely.... Beloved, this is the only thing that will really bring revival: for church members to be set on fire for God.

"I am writing this from Columbus, Georgia, where we are in the midst of a campaign, and God is bringing souls to Himself. There have been 170 thus far to respond to the invitation. Last night an entire family came for whom friends had been praying a long while.... In another family, nine were saved. God is moving, all glory and praise be to His name!"

How glad we are to have these fine reports. I know our Sword readers will rejoice in these victories God is giving over the nation.

EVANGELIST JOE B. RICE reports on a series of meetings in the Rexroat Baptist Church of Ardmore, Oklahoma, with the Rev. Wayne Smith, pastor. In spite of the handicaps of local conditions, Brother Joe reports the blessing of God.

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Pleasant Green, Missouri, recently had a series of meetings in fellowship with Evangelist Joe B. Rice. There were four conversions, and the pastor reported the blessing of God was on this ministry. Rev. Sterling P. Kerr is the pastor.

EVANGELIST CLAUDE McDONALD recently had a series of meetings with the Rosie Baptist Church of Rosie, Arkansas, of which Rev. G. M. Roberts is pastor. There were 13 conversions.

Brother McDonald reports 22 conversions in the recent series of meetings in the Greenwood Baptist Church, Hewitt, New Jersey. Brother McDonald reports a bar tender was contacted during a street meeting, and this fellow followed to a near-by hall where the meeting was continued and that night was led to Christ, later was baptised.

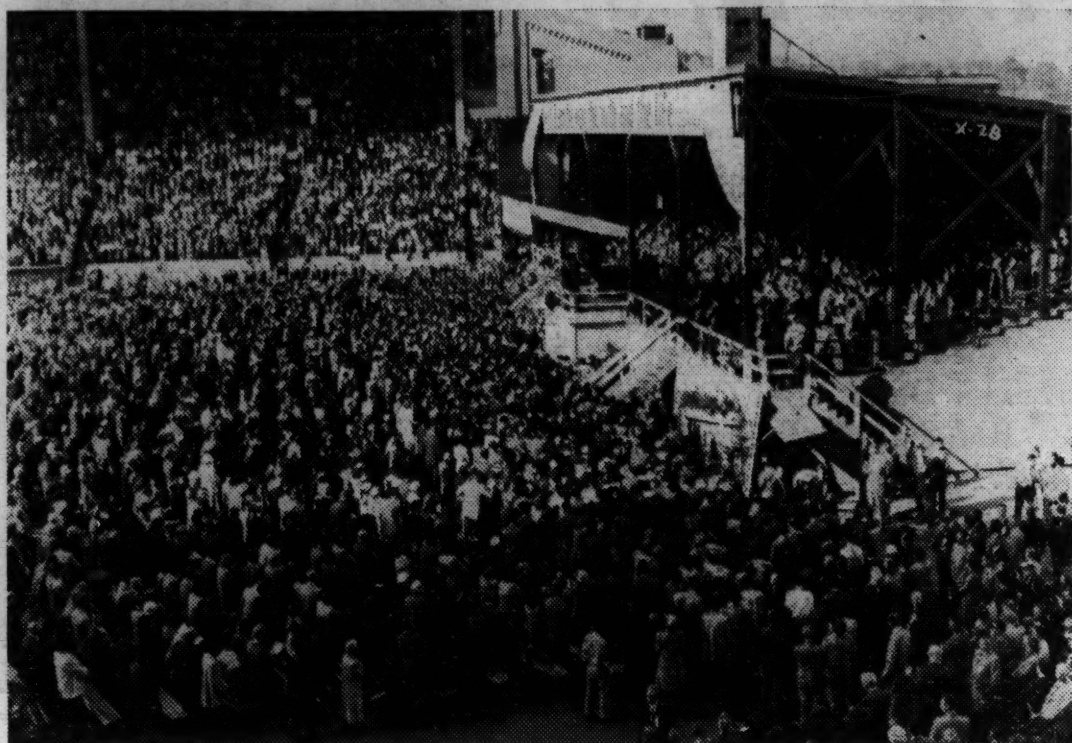
EVANGELIST G. COVELL KEENUM and song leader Kenneth Wells recently returned from a series of meetings in the Grace Baptist Church of Great Falls, Montana. There were 51 decisions, 11 first time.

EVANGELIST JIMMIE THRELFALL held a series of meetings in Madrid, Nebraska, sponsored by two Mennonite churches and the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Brother Threlfall reports a number of conversions. There was a man for whom the folks of the community had been praying for a year; he came every night, but would not yield. Finally he accepted Christ and sent this wire to his aged parents the next day. "I am a sinner saved by grace." Brother Threlfall reports the blessings of God in this effort.

EVANGELIST DOUGLAS WINN held a meeting in the Priceville Freewill Baptist Church of Tupelo, Mississippi, Rev. Paul Long, pastor. There were a number of decisions for Christ during this effort. He reports they set a new Sunday School record during the campaign.

EVANGELIST KENNETH CHAPMAN reports a time of rich blessing during a series of meetings with Rev. Elzie Jones, pastor of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Athens, Alabama. There

## Picture of Converts in Front of Platform at Closing Rally in Seattle



Seattle, September 3—SPECIAL—More than six hundred persons responded to Evangelist Billy Graham's invitation to receive Christ as Saviour at the closing meeting of the Greater Seattle Gospel Crusade on Sunday, September 2. The response raised to 6,785 the recorded decisions for Christ during the five-week campaign.

## Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy

(Continued from page 3)

that God's people are not willing to pay God's price to win souls. We have the same Great Commission. We meet the same kind of sinners. We would have the same kind of opposition if we pressed the battle to the gates for the Lord as they did. But we could have the same kind of results.

Consider thirdly, that the tendency of backsliding and spiritual decline in Bible times did not prevent revival then and cannot prevent revival now.

There is one sad fact that all of us must recognize when we consider this matter of revivals, that is, that even born-again people have still the old nature, and have a tendency to wander, to grow spiritually cold, to lose soul-winning power and Christian joy. This tendency to backsliding and to spiritual decline was exactly the same in Bible times as it is now. Those who are Christians have a tendency to grow less spiritual. All parents bring children into the world who are unsaved, and even Christian parents have a tendency to let them grow up unconverted. The tendency in churches everywhere is to grow more formal and less spiritual. The preaching tends to degenerate from clear, plain reproof of sin and a demand for repentance, to comforting messages to the saved, and moral essays.

The first chapter of Romans tells us how a race of men who once knew God, a race descended from Noah and his sons, spared from the flood in the ark, became heathen and idolatrous. That chapter tells us how the ancestors of heathen people, "when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:21). When they began to make images in worship, "wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness" (vs. 24), and "... God gave them up unto vile affections" (vs. 26). Then "even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind..." (vs. 28).

The foolish idea that man descended from brute ancestry and that man has climbed up from an animal-like state through savagery, barbarism, and civilization to enlightenment is a theory made in the imagination of men. It is not taught in the Bible, and it is not verified by history. The idea that man came through an old

were about 150 decisions during the meeting, of which 13 were first-time professions of faith. Nineteen family altars were established. He reports 35 young people pledged themselves to put Christ first and do the will of God at all cost.

stone age, a new stone age, an age of metals, and so forth to the present civilization is belied by facts uncovered by archeologists and ethnologists everywhere. Heathen people did not reach their present state by ascending from brute beasts; they reached their present state of heathen darkness by apostasy and declension, going away from a knowledge of God and light and truth. That is the constant tendency of the human heart everywhere, a tendency toward straying from God, turning

### ENGAGEMENTS

#### Sword Staff of Evangelists

##### Kenneth Chapman

Sept. 9-23, Elder Darel Perkins, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pleasant Mound, Ill.; Sept. 24-Oct. 7, Rev. George Karr, First Baptist Church, Ramsay, Ill.; Oct. 9-21, Rev. George Turk, Calvary Baptist Church, 1114 N. 19th St., Superior, Wis.

##### Ray Cutchin

Oct. 2-14, Rev. C. J. Ickes, Laurel Hill Gospel Tabernacle, Jennerstown, Pa.

##### G. Covell Keenum

Sept. 24-Oct. 7, Rev. Bob Blake, River Ave. Baptist Church, 1037 So. Reisner St., Indianapolis, Ind.; Oct. 8-21, Rev. Hartel Whitlitz, Box 86, Danville, Ind.

##### Claude McDonald, Jr.

Sept. 23-Oct. 7, Rev. W. H. Pierson, Fairmount Southern Baptist Church, 1558 N. Erie St., Wichita, Kans.; Oct. 9-21, Rev. Glen F. Hall, Chariton River Baptist Church, Plano, Ia.

##### J. H. Meltan

Sept. 16-30, Immanuel Baptist Church, Temple, Tex.; Oct. 7-25, Rev. Ladolt Stevens, Leonidas Community Church and Factoryville Bible Church, Leonidas, Mich.

##### Joe B. Rice

Oct. 1-14, Rev. Vincent Riggs, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

##### James Threlfall

Sept. 23-Oct. 7, Rev. Henry Haglund, Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant, Pa. Oct. 14-28, Rev. Kent W. Wray, Goodells Gospel Church, Goodells, Mich.

##### Eddie Wagner

Sept. 25-Oct. 7, Rev. A. J. Turner, Madison and Butler, First Baptist Church, Manchester, Ia.; Oct. 14-28, Rev. T. Fred Wolfe, Broad St. Baptist Church, Washington, Pa.

##### J. Oscar Wells

Sept. 23-30, Rev. T. E. Weringo, Suck Springs Baptist Church, Route 1, Bedford, Va.; Oct. 14-21, Rev. Wallace V. Dorris, Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.

##### Douglas Winn

Sept. 25-Oct. 7, Grace Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; Oct. 7-19, Rev. Eugene Wood, Buffalo Springs, Va.

These men on the Sword Staff of Evangelists have been called of God to do the work of an evangelist, and are willing to go wherever God clearly leads, to help in a revival campaign. Each of these God-called men have ability, are deeply spiritual and are successful soul winners. Each one is a proven evangelist. All have pastoral experience.

Everyone of these men is sound in Bible doctrine, believing in the complete inspiration of the Word of God, in the virgin birth, bodily resurrection and essential deity of Christ. They believe in Heaven and Hell, in regeneration by repentance and faith in Christ. They exalt the atoning blood of Christ. They teach a separated life for Christians. They believe Christians may have an endowment of Holy Spirit power for soul winning. They are prayerful, loving, believing, compassionate men, carefully chosen to represent The Sword of the Lord as our official evangelists.

For dates with any of these men of the Sword Staff of Evangelists, write Rev. Ralph E. Mueher, Field Secretary, Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

away from the light. God said, "My people are bent to backsliding from me" (Hos. 11:7).

Of this constant tendency of people who are enlightened and blessed of God to fall into spiritual decline, false doctrine, unbelief and wickedness, Matthew Henry has the following to say in his comment upon II Thessalonians 2:3-12:

"And let us observe that no sooner was Christianity planted and rooted in the world than there began to be a defection in the Christian church. It was so in the Old-Testament church; presently after any considerable advance made in religion there followed a defection: soon after the promise there was revolting; for example, soon after men began to call upon the name of the Lord all flesh corrupted their way,—soon after the covenant with Noah the Babel-builders bade defiance to heaven,—soon after the covenant with Abraham his seed degenerated in Egypt,—soon after the Israelites were planted in Canaan, when the first generation was worn off, they forsook God and served Baal,—soon after God's covenant with David his seed revolted, and served other gods,—soon after the return out

(Continued on page 10)

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# BEWARE OF THE WOLF

By the late Dr. Louis S. Bauman

One of the most dangerous wolves that ever sauntered forth in sheep's clothing is none other than Seventh-Day Adventism. Whenever a Mormon, a Theosophist, a Christian Scientist, a Russellite, or a Modernist barks, anyone really acquainted with the Word of God should know almost immediately from the sound that it is the voice of a wolf. But the voice of a Seventh-Day Adventist is not so easily discerned. The disciples of Mrs. Ellen G. White are masters in the art of deception. D. M. Canright, once a foremost disciple of Mrs. White, who saw his error and repudiated the whole system, declared: "There is a streak of deception in the whole work of Seventh-Day Adventists from the first to the last," and he was right.

One of the three largest religious broadcasts in all the world is "The Voice of Prophecy." Its annual budget is reliably estimated at more than a million dollars. But this broadcast conceals from the public the fact that it is sponsored by Seventh-Day Adventists. Thousands upon thousands of true Christians regularly listen to this broadcast, and are deceived thereby. Often referring to it, they pronounce it "Wonderful." The broadcast seems so true, so fundamental, that real saints are led to request, then read the literature offered on this broadcast. It sponsors a "Free Bible Course," and the first few lessons of the course cleverly obscure all that is erroneous in the system. No distinctive Adventist teachings are revealed. All seems thoroughly biblical. Gradually, with cunning subtlety, the student is led to the less objectionable of these distinctive doctrines—then gradually on and on—until completely ensnared. This is the method.

Why doesn't the "Voice Of Prophecy" be honest with the people? Why doesn't it come right out in the beginning and candidly admit it is a Seventh-Day Adventist broadcast, and is sponsored by Seventh-Day Adventists? Why hide that fact? "The Lutheran Hour" is one of the most successful broadcasts and does not attempt to hide its origin. Why don't the Seventh-Day Adventists, whether they come to you as individuals or by way of broadcasts, disclose at once what they believe, and explain why they believe it? That would be their inalienable right in this free land of ours. Why do they withhold so long the fact that they believe that they are the children of Israel, and that they appropriate to themselves all the blessings temporal and eternal, that God made to His earthly people? Why don't they inform you immediately that they regard a woman, Mrs. Ellen G. White, as a prophetess, as fully, innately, inspired of God as was Moses, Isaiah, Peter, John, Paul, or any other of the great prophets of the Bible. How do they explain that Mrs. White made a number of prophecies, e.g., that the United States would be divided permanently into two nations as a result of the Civil War? They

never came to pass? (Deut. 18:20-22.) Why do they not tell you that Mrs. White, their prophet, declared of her own writings: "It is God, and not an erring mortal, that has spoken"? (Testimonies v.3, Page 257).

Again: "God was speaking through clay... In these letters which I write, in the testimonies which I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in a vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne." (Testimony, No. 31, Page 63). Again, "God has sent me as a reprover of the people... It is not the instrument that you slight and insult, but God that has spoken to you these warnings and reproofs."

Above all, why don't the Seventh-Day Adventists tell us immediately that Mrs. White taught and they believe that the keeping of Saturday as "the Holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers" (E. & V., 26-27)? And again, "Sunday-keeping is an institution of the first beast, and all who submit to obey this institution emphatically worship the first beast, and receive his mark, the mark of the beast" (Advent Review Extra, Page 10 and 11, Aug. 1850).

All of which means that all Christians who keep Sunday instead of Saturday as a day of rest are destined to an awful doom, even as it is written. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receives his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Rev. 14:9-11). And why do Seventh-Dayists insist that our salvation depends not on the grace of God, but on the keeping of the Ten Commandments—especially the Fourth?

"For if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law" (Gal. 3:21). "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one



Dr. James H. Hunter, right above, author of the prize-winning novel entitled *THINE IS THE KINGDOM*, is shown receiving his check in the amount of \$4,000 as First Prize Winner in Zondervan's \$5,000 Second International Christian Fiction Contest from Mr. P. J. Zondervan, partner of the Zondervan Publishing House in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Hunter is widely known as the Editor of the *Evangelical Christian*, published in Toronto, Canada, and author of the best-selling novels, "Mystery of Mar Saba" and "Banners of Blood."

The publishers expect this story to take its place as one of the truly great Christian novels of the century. The story moves with breath-taking speed from the gloomy environs of bureaucratic Moscow to the tranquility which pervades the Canadian woodland in summer. It is a graphically descriptive, keenly intellectual, astoundingly prophetic and genuinely spiritual story. It is a record, powerfully told, of how Communism works beneath the surface to undermine the privileges of free men.

The prize-winning novel will be on sale in book stores on the date of publication, September 20, 1951. The second and third-winning novels will be announced at a later date.

## The Greatest Text

(Continued from page 1)

love that causes mother to go down into the very valley of the shadow of death and bathe her feet in the icy stream to give life to her child. It requires an even greater love for a mother to deny herself and bury her life in sacrifice that she might rear her children. But no mother's love ever equalled the mighty love God has for every unworthy sinner.

This is true for many reasons, only a few of which we can mention now. First, God's love is the greatest because the objects of His love are His greatest enemies. It is not hard to love someone who befriends you, is kind to you, and courts your friendship. But to love someone who ill-treats you, tries to ruin you, and overthrow you—that is a different story. The Bible declares that every sinner is an enemy to God. We have broken His holy commandments. We have lined up on the side of His arch enemy, Satan. We are fifth columnists against God. And yet in spite of all we have done against Him, He loved us enough to send His only Son

into the world, to suffer and die for us.

### Sinners Not Lovely

Then again, God's love is great because those of us who are loved by Him are anything but lovely. It isn't hard to love some people; they are naturally lovely. They have lovely ways, dispositions, personalities. But there are others of us who are unattractive, vile, repulsive, unlovely. All sinners are in the latter class in God's sight. He looked down from heaven once to see if there were any that doeth good, and declared, "There is none righteous. No not one.... That all of man's righteousness is as filthy rags." Yet in spite of our meanness, our sinfulness, our spiritual unattractiveness, God loves us more than any of us will ever know this side of heaven. I tell you it takes a marvelous love for God to love such sinners as all of us prove ourselves to be.

### An Illustration

Let me illustrate: Suppose my wife and I decide to adopt a child, and go to the orphanage to select one. As we enter the campus surrounding the orphan home, a lovely little girl with golden curls meets us, and smiles at us. She takes hold of our hands and says, "I want you to be my mother and father." It would not be hard to love and adopt that child. But suppose that as soon as we had parked our car, a little red-headed, freckled-faced, dirty, ragged boy came out to meet us. He is chewing tobacco, and spits on us. Then he reaches down and throws sand in our faces. Then just for good measure he kicks us and curses us. Can you suppose our going into the office of that orphanage and telling the superintendent that we had fallen in love with that little rascal and wanted to adopt him? And yet, my friend, that is exactly what God has done for every one of us. For all of us were tobacco-chewing, spitting, sand-throwing, cursing sinners in the sight of God. When I think of how God loves us in spite of such sinfulness and unloveliness on our part, I am made to say with the hymn writer:

"I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean."

Then God's love is the greatest in the world because it is unending. It is the most enduring of any love in heaven or earth.

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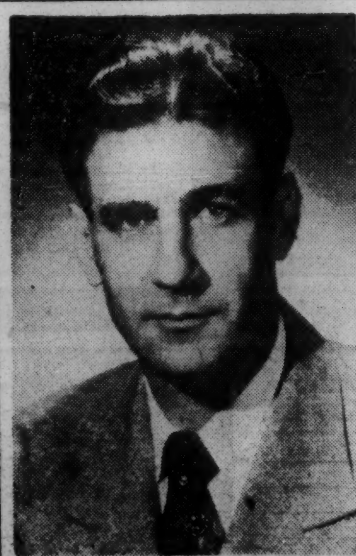
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It lasts from everlasting to everlasting. In Jeremiah 31:3, we read this marvelous truth: "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love."

How precious and comforting it is to know that there is one whose love never changes. Most human love is very unstable, uncertain, changing. Friends love us today and forget us tomorrow. But not so with God. His love always remains the same. The manifestation of it may change, but His love never changes. It was the blessedness of this thought that caused George Matheson to write that great hymn, "O, Love That Will Not Let Me Go." It is said that he was engaged to be married to

(Continued on page 6)

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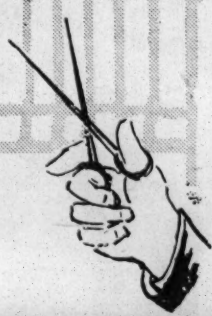
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## Strange Short Stories

By Dr. Walter L. Wilson



### Haircuts and Bedsteads

Who would go to the Bible to learn about a haircut or a bedstead? Beloved, you can go to the Bible to learn many interesting things which you might think were not there. If the living Lord takes the trouble, and the time, and the space to record such little insignificant things, we may also be sure that there are some profitable lessons in these accounts for our hearts.

In Deut. 3:11 we find the short obituary of a great king. Most of the record as described in the verse is not concerning the king at all, but is a description of the bedstead on which he slept. How would you like to have placed on your tombstone a description of your bedstead with very little about yourself? Did the Lord make an error when He wrote this biography? Did Moses write the wrong thing when he wrote about the bedstead instead of about the mighty giant who slept on it? No, there are no mistakes in the Bible. This bedstead represented the character of Og, the king. Og was a giant. He needed a large bed. Og was heavy. He needed a strong bed. Og was restless. He needed a wide bed. Og was self-centered, he provided a bed for his own personal use. Such are the lessons we may learn from this short story. The bedstead was made of iron to make Og secure and safe from damage. He looked after his own personal security and welfare. He saw to it that no hurt would come to himself.

This bedstead was about fourteen feet long and about six feet wide. He was looking out for his comfort. He could stretch without bumping his head or jamming his toes. He could roll over without fear of falling out. He provided well for his own comfort, joy and happiness. He cared nothing for God. He persecuted God's people. He despised God's will. The bedstead was a picture of his life. Therefore, the Holy Spirit, through Moses, has selected the bedstead as the subject of a sermon on the life of Og who shut out God.

In Isaiah 28:20, we read of a bed that is too short for a man, and covers that are too narrow to wrap him sufficiently. In this Scripture the bed is used to show how utterly insufficient are all human expedients to satisfy human desires. The God who made the heart is the only One who can satisfy the heart. You may make a bed of ease for yourself, but thorns will be found in it eventually and tears will drench it before you are finished with it.

The care that the Lord shows toward those who love the poor is illustrated by these words in Psalm 41:3, "Thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." A better translation would be, "Thou wilt smooth out all the wrinkles in his bed when he is sick." Does God notice wrinkles in beds and the discomfort which this little thing may cause? Yes, your loving Lord is interested in everything whether little or big when it concerns the peace, the comfort, and the happiness of His child.

It is quite evident that Peter had been raised well either by his mother or by his wife. In Acts 9:34 Peter spoke to Aeneas and said, "Arise, and make thy bed." This man had been in bed eight years. It would be no easy matter to make such a bed, but one of the signs that the man was really healed would be that after rising from that bed of sickness, he would smooth out the covers, tuck in the corners and make up the bed nicely and attractively. Chris-

tians are supposed to be neat and clean as well as orderly. Do you make your bed, or leave it for the weary, worn mother to make after you have left the house?

Absalom had a haircut. The Scripture tells us about it. The record of this haircut has been preserved through the centuries. This was not an ordinary haircut. It was the haircut of a beautiful man. Absalom was the son of David, the king. His obituary is found in II Samuel 14:25 and 26. His beauty is recorded, for in all Israel there was none quite so handsome as he. Once a year he had his hair cut because it was thick and long and needed trimming. The weight of the hair that was cut off was six and a half pounds. The Lord has even taken the trouble of recording the weight of the hair that was taken off with the shears. You never weighed your hair, did you? Did anybody ever interview you about your haircut so it could be put in the libraries of the world? Why should God want the story of his haircut to be known by all people everywhere? It was because this short story contains such important lessons for us. Absalom lived for the beauty of his body and the glory of his person. He had a beautiful body, the Scripture says so. He did not have a wen or a wart, a bunion, or a pimple on his entire body. His feet were as perfect as his face. His fingers were as delicate as his features. No doubt he spent many hours before the mirror and in bathhouses and with the manicure, keeping himself in beautiful, fit condition. God gives him credit for all of this. God always gives credit for anything that He can.

Absalom could grow lots of hair but he could not develop any grace in his heart. Absalom cared for the beauty of his body but neglected the development of his soul. Absalom was careful to protect his body from any harm but neglected to preserve his soul from sin. He lived a wicked life and he died a wretched death. He left all his beauty in the grave. What a warning to the rest of us.

Another haircut is described in Judges 16:19. Samson was a man of God. He was a Nazarite and under the laws of God was not permitted to cut his hair. The long hair on his head was a public indication that he had accepted the vows of the Nazarite and had given his life over to God for holy uses. The Holy Spirit had filled Samson with unusual strength. He had done mighty deeds. He had slain many men. He had carried off the gates of the city. While he walked with God he accomplished God's purpose.

One day in an unguarded hour Samson fell in love with Delilah, a Philistine maiden. She won his confidence and turned his heart from God. Worldly sweethearts always do. The best of the Devil's children make the worst enemies of God. Samson confided in this stranger the secret of his strength. One time while he was sleeping,

(Continued from page 5)

a beautiful young woman. A short while before they were to be married, his doctor told him that he had an eye affliction that would cause him to be blind within a few months. He told his sweetheart that he did not want to force her to hold to the engagement and be tied down to a blind man, that he would free her from the engagement. He hoped she loved him enough to stay by him. But she broke the engagement and married another. Shocked by this example of the fickleness of human love, he cast himself on God's unchanging love and wrote:

"O, Love that wilt not let me go  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow

May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,

That in Thy sunshine's glow its day

May brighter, fairer be."

Yes, God's love is the greatest love in all the world. How I thank God that I am loved by One so gracious and tender and unchanging as He. Every Christian listening should right now bow his head and praise God for His marvelous, matchless love. Just remember, friend, whatever may happen to you *God loves you*. He loves you enough that He gave His only begotten Son to die for you. Then He will certainly love you enough to do everything else that is best for you. Regardless of what happens He will work it out for your good, if you are His child.

#### II. John 3:16 Contains The World's Greatest Gift—"That He Gave His Only Begotten Son"

Love always wants to give something. When people are in love they want to give to express that love. I remember an experience in one of my first love affairs that illustrates this truth. I was a lad of some nine summers, and she a thin brunette perhaps one year my senior. It was a serious affair. I was sure it would end in marriage. I wanted to give something to express my love. One day I was looking at a farm magazine and saw where I could get a cameo ring for selling 12 boxes of "White Cloverine" salve. I felt that a ring would be the proper gift since we were so serious. Therefore, I sent off and got the salve. I worked hard to sell it. It seemed the ring would never come. When it did I took it to her home, and very nervously put it on her finger. I was proud to give because I was in love.

In the same way God's love caused Him to desire to give something to prove His love. He so loved that He gave. What did He give? It will have to be something worthy of God and worthy of His love, therefore it will be "The world's greatest gift." And it was, for He gave His only begotten Son. He gave Himself. The greatest gift a man or woman gives is not diamonds, or rings, or chocolates; their greatest gift is when they give themselves to each other when they stand before the minister and say to each other, "I give myself, my body, my life, my love, my all to you." God gave this supreme gift in giving Himself in the Person of His only begotten Son. But remember, God did not give Himself for a life of happiness, as the married couple anticipates when they give themselves to each other. He gave Himself to come into this sin-

she had those long locks of his hair cut off. He should not have been sleeping in her arms. He should not have been loving one who was an enemy of God. With his locks shorn, the Spirit of God departed and left him helpless in the power of his enemies. May the Lord keep us from ever making such a fatal mistake.

(The above is one of thirty-three chapters in the book, *Strange Short Stories By the Doctor*, 123 pages, paper bound, which may be purchased for 75c from *Sword of the Lord Publishers*, Wheaton, Illinois.)

## The Greatest Text

cursed world to be ill-treated, spit upon, cursed, and finally crucified.

He gave Himself as a sacrifice for sinners. He gave Himself as the payment of our sin debt. He gave His head for the crown of thorns that should have been on my head and your head. He gave His back to be beaten with the stripes that should have been placed upon you and upon me. Isaiah declares this when he cries out, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. . . . with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5).

He gave His hands and His feet for the nails that should have gone in mine. He gave His blood to be shed on the Cross where I should have been punished for my sins, where you should have suffered for your sins. Yes, He gave Himself to save us from our sins. He literally suffered hell in order that we might not taste of the fiery flames of that bottomless pit.

#### His Gift Illustrated

No illustration fully expresses what Jesus did for us on Calvary, but I think of one just here that might help. It is said that two Indian tribes had warred against each other for years. They were so perfectly matched in men that neither could win over the other. One chief, who loved his people, saw that the continuation of the war would mean extermination for both tribes, so he proposed to the other chief that they select 10 strong men on each side, and let them fight, and let the winning side be the winner of the war. He pointed out that it was useless for all of their men to be slain. The enemy chief refused the suggestion. Finally, the chief desiring to save his tribe sent this message to his enemy: "I am willing to die for my tribe to save them. I will let you cut my heart out, thus taking my life, if you will promise to spare the lives of my people." His blood-thirsty enemy at once agreed. The two

(Continued on page 7)

## The Nurse Did Double Duty!

When the patient left the hospital, it wasn't the careful treatment she had received that she was most thankful for, nor was it the kind attention of friends. No, it wasn't even the fact that she was well on the road to recovery, though that was wonderful. What she was most thankful for was the book the nurse had loaned to her which gave her a new lease on life and a new realization of God's loving watch care over His own children. You see, the alert Christian nurse had seen that there was a need beyond the aid of medicines and hospital and had placed in the hands of the sick woman a copy of the book, *GOD'S CURE FOR ANXIOUS CARE*. So while in the hospital they recorded that a sick body had been healed, in Heaven it was recorded that a sick heart had been healed.

Actually this is neither the beginning nor the end of the story—it is happening all the time. Ministers, friends, and loved ones are placing this greatly-blessed book in the hands of sick, lonely, and discouraged people everywhere, and we often get letters from those very people telling us how the book has blessed their hearts and changed their lives! That's why we recommend it to you.

You will be surprised at the loveliness of this book. The binding is soft gray printed in rose, and the floral endsheet with presentation page makes it especially suitable as a gift. It has nine chapters, 127 pages, and closes with a decision slip for those who have never trusted Christ as personal Saviour. Some chapter titles are: "Never Alone; Never Forsaken," "Water for the Thirsty," "Affectionate Christians," and "I Will Love Thee, O Lord, My Strength." Get a copy today!

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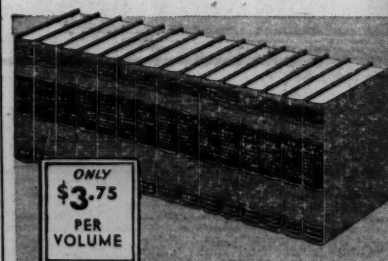
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## Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS IN THIS COLUMN WILL USUALLY BE BY JUDGES OF THE SWORD BOOK CLUB AND WILL BE SIGNED

**SAND AND STARS**, Missionary Adventure on the Jungle Trail, Ruth Stull, Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, \$2.50.

I have not read a more beautiful book. It is the story of missionary adventure among the Campa Indians in the jungles of Peru. It is a volume of realistic description of primitive peoples, of happy consecration to almost unbelievably difficult situations, of the universal appeal of genuine interest, and of victorious living through faith in God. After each chapter I found myself saying, "This is the best." I would stress particularly "Canine Career," the story of Laddie; "Gallery Pieces," pictures in memory's gallery, featuring the storm; and "Black Wings," the story of vampire bats. Mrs. Stull's English is both classic and human, supplying a most attractive vehicle for a definitely different book.

JOHN L. HILL

**GREAT PULPIT MASTERS, T. DEWITT TALMAGE**, Vol. VII. A book of sermons. Fleming H. Revell, New York, \$2.25.

Talmage was one of the greatest evangelical preachers of the world, possibly the greatest America ever produced. (Though Moody was possibly a greater soul winner, Talmage was as heart-warming and more gifted.) He was true to the Bible in every sense. He was a fundamentalist before the word was coined. He was an evangelist before Moody, Torrey, and Billy Sunday. He had Sunday's hold on common people, with more learning, more influence on men of culture. Every preacher should read these sermons to color his own preaching, to fire his imagination, to bolster his courage in denouncing sin. I suggest that every home that can should add all the volumes of *Great Pulpit Masters* to their library, and certainly only Moody and Spurgeon's sermons, of those published thus far in the series, are in the same class with Talmage's.

JOHN R. RICE

**GOD'S METHODS FOR HOLY LIVING**, Donald Grey Barnhouse. Eternity Book Service, Philadelphia, \$2.

## The Greatest Text

(Continued from page 6)

tribes were lined up facing each other. The chief who was willing to give his life a sacrifice for his people, placed his breast across a big stone between the tribes. The wicked enemy took a stone knife and cut his heart out, and held it up while it was still quivering. Both tribes knelt before it, and the war was ended.

O, my friends, can't you see that this is what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us? There was a warfare on between us and Satan. The Devil was winning. Hell was our destiny. Jesus stepped forth from the Ivory Palace and went to Calvary and let His heart be burst, let His blood be shed, let His life be taken in order that the warfare might end, and we might escape from the enemy and from hell. Yes, He gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins that we might escape being punished for them. And thus He gave the world's greatest gift. Surely, no other gift in all eternity has touched this in its depth, in its cost, in its intrinsic value, in its power to bless those who receive it.

### Brings a Blessing

This gift of John 3:16 is greatest because of the blessing it brings to all who receive it. The blessing of most gifts does not abide long, but this gift of God brings an eternal benediction. Because God gave His only begotten Son to die for sinners, whose-

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ever believeth on Him will not perish but have everlasting life. In other words, all who trust Him for salvation will be saved with unending salvation. They will never go to hell—"shall not perish." They will positively go to Heaven—"will have everlasting life."

The last thought is that *this gift is offered to all who will receive it*. Men and women buy expensive gifts for only certain chosen ones. But God offers this blessed gift of salvation to *everyone*, for He loves everyone. No sinner is so mean, so vile, so debauched that God does not love Him and wants to save Him. None are so deep in sin that God does not offer full pardon to them through the death of His Son.

Sinner friend, how can you go on spurning and rejecting a love like God's love for you? Just think of how He loves you in spite of your wickedness, in spite of the way you have broken His commandments. He has no selfish motive in loving you. Won't you right now say, "Lord, if you love me enough to die for me, and to beg me to come to you for salvation, then I will love myself enough to trust you to save me from hell. I will love you enough to confess you before men, to live for you, to make you the Lord of my life?"

### Criminal Saved

The story is told of a minister who was riding on a train with several prisoners who were being taken from a county jail to the state penitentiary. The preacher asked the sheriff if he might talk to the prisoners about their souls. The sheriff said, "I don't object, but I advise you not to speak to that fellow who is handcuffed to the seat. He is the meanest murderer I have ever known. He will insult you if you even speak to him." The minister said "I will take the consequences if you will allow it." He went over to the prisoner and said, "Friend, pardon me for intruding, but I just wanted to tell you that God loves you, and gave His Son to die for you that you might not suffer for your sins." The big prisoner said, "It's a lie! Nobody loves me. My mother put me on a stranger's doorstep when I was born. I have never seen anybody who loved me. Everybody hates me, and I hate everybody. I wish I could kill the whole bunch." The minister calmly replied, "But God does love you, and

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this Bible says so." Then the prisoner said, "I did go to Sunday School for a few weeks once, and the kind lady said the black book was true for it was from God. But where does it say God loves me. I thought it said that God hated criminals, and murderers

and will send them to hell." The preacher then gave him the Bible and let him read John 3:16. Then he explained how God loved Him, as I have tried to explain it to you today, and how God would save him if he would only believe in Him. He showed Him that God would forgive his every sin, and blot them all out, and remember them against Him no more because Jesus had suffered and died for them. The old man was quiet for a few minutes, and then said very slowly and emotionally, "IF GOD LOVES ME LIKE THAT THEN I WILL LOVE HIM." And He did. He became a real missionary in prison.

That is the way I feel, friend of mine. If God loves me like that then I will love Him. How about it, Christian friend? If you are a backslider, God help you to go back to the Church, back to God, back to the one who loves you so. Then, O sinner friend, won't you right now accept this gift of eternal life through Christ? Won't you believe on Jesus today?

### III. JOHN 3:16 CONTAINS THE WORLD'S GREATEST BLESSING

This blessing is stated in these words: "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This blessing is the outcome of the great gift we emphasized in our first message. Because Jesus has died for us God offers to us through Him this great blessing. Many gifts we give to those whom we love do not bless them; they sometimes prove to be a curse. But not so with God's gift of His beloved Son. His death for us brings unspeakable, immeasurable blessings. It guarantees that those who trust Him "will not perish, but have everlasting life."

### Promises Forever Salvation

These words contain Christ's promise of full and free and forever salvation to all who believe. They give the negatives and positives of our wonderful redemption. Many do not seem to understand just what it means for one to be

(Continued on page 8)

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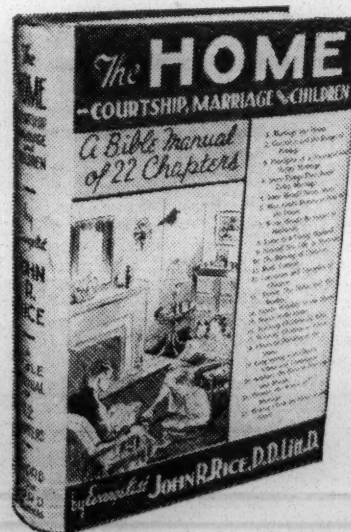
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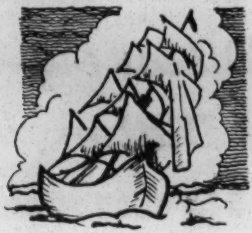
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## The Greatest Text

(Continued from page 7)

saved. Well, it means more than we can tell you today. But among other things it certainly means that those who are saved **WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVER-LASTING LIFE.**

### What Does He Mean?

Now, just what does Jesus mean by promising that those who believe "will not perish"? Certainly He means that they will never be lost, never go to hell, never cease to be saved. How can the words "should not perish" mean anything else? How can a person believe that one can be saved today and lost tomorrow in the face of this passage? If one who believes in Jesus ever goes to hell then the very promise of Christ would fail. This will never happen, **IT CANNOT HAPPEN.** For one to go to hell would certainly *perish*, and John 3:16 would become a lie.

Many of you listening to me may be afraid to be saved, afraid to trust Christ for fear you cannot "hold out" to the end. You are afraid you will stumble and fall and perish by the wayside. I know how to sympathize with you for I felt this way before I started studying the Bible. After I searched the Scriptures I found several clear truths about this matter.

### Cannot Hold Out

First, I found out that I could not hold out to the end. For I read of a devil who is more powerful than any man. But thank God, I also learned that I do not have to hold out, for the **LORD JESUS HAS PROMISED TO HOLD MY HAND AND KEEP ME FROM FALLING.** For example I found over here in Psalm 37:23,24 that God says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

This tells us very plainly that God's children, the saved, will stumble and fall; they will not al-

ways be perfect, but when they do fall they will not utterly fall—that is, be completely lost, "FOR THE LORD UPHOLDETH THEM WITH HIS HAND."

Then I found in the 24th verse of the book of Jude this blessed promise, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."

Then again I found over in I Peter 1:5 that Christians are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Can't you see, friend, that all of these passages say exactly what Jesus says in John 3:16, and mean what He meant in saying that whosoever believeth in Him "should not perish"? Can't you see that it is foolish for you to worry about losing your salvation, or not being able to hold out to the end, when Jesus here specifically promises that if you will trust Him you will not perish? To think you can be lost, or worry about being kept saved is to distrust Jesus, and disbelieve the Bible.

### "Saved For Six Months"

There are a lot of theories of men that make Jesus a falsifier in this promise. I remember an experience I had some years ago that illustrates what I mean. I was in a tent revival in my home town in North Florida. While doing personal work one afternoon I visited a man who received me rather indifferently. I said, "Friend, I came around to talk with you about your eternal welfare. I don't mean to intrude, but would you tell me if you are a Christian?" His short reply was, "I used to be." Then I asked, "How long were you a Christian?" He answered, "Oh, about six months, and then I lost it."

I said, "Would you mind me reading a passage from the Bible to you?" He said, "No, that is all right. Go ahead." I turned to John

## The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

a season. Early tomorrow morning Mrs. Rice, my secretary, Miss Viola Walden, and I, with the car loaded with office equipment and baggage, will head south for Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on the coast where I am to speak Friday night and Saturday. Sunday morning we will arrive at Pensacola, Florida, where I begin revival services with Brent Baptist Church, September 16, continuing two weeks. Last copy for THE SWORD OF THE LORD, promotion and advertising material, radio broadcasts, and important mail will have to be attended to today.

Brother Pyle of Brent Baptist Church, Pensacola, a director of the Tennessee Temple Schools, was present Monday night at Chattanooga and reports plans for a great revival.

Also present was Arthur DeMoss, president of the Christian Business Men's Committee in Albany, New York, where, God willing, I will be in a union revival campaign October 14 through November 4.

### Daughter Joy, Thirteen, in Wheaton College Academy

Yesterday morning the editor's baby daughter bravely entered Wheaton College Academy. She will be fourteen September 27; she was born on our sixteenth wedding anniversary. Now we are about out of babies! Four of our six daughters have graduated from Wheaton College, another is a sophomore there. The years fly so quickly! How good God has been to protect our children, to save them and to help us rear them to be fine Christian young women.

### "Just What I Needed"

Again and again people write to say that a certain article or sermon in THE SWORD OF THE LORD came just in the nick of time. A pastor in Colorado, well-trained, and sound in the faith, but preaching to a modernistic church, tried his best but was just about defeated by the pressure. Then, he writes, came William Jennings Bryan's article in THE SWORD, "Is the Bible True?" It solved any doubts or questions, gave him boldness to continue his ministry, true to the Word of God.

In hundreds of cases letters come to tell that the Lord must have led in the selection or writing of a certain article, since it solved some local problem in the church, or saved some life from ruin, or delivered someone from a false cult. A Christian prays about some great problem in his life or church and the next day picks up THE SWORD OF THE LORD and finds his problem solved! Such letters indicate that the dear Lord watches over THE SWORD and helps us to prepare the material needed. And it is a solemn warning that all of us should pray that this work will never be routine, but that always the editor will listen to the still small voice and

3:16 for I was sure he would know that passage if he knew any in the Bible. I started reading it, but changing it as follows: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish for six months, but should have everlasting life for six months." He looked at me as if to question the way I had read it, so I read it again the same way. When I had finished, he said, "My mother taught me that verse. You did not read it right." I said, "O.K., if you don't think I read it correctly, then read it for yourself." He took the Bible and read it very carefully. When he had finished he looked at me with an expression on his face that indicated that he thought he had caught me trying to misquote the Bible. Then he said, "You added something to it. It does not say anything about six months like you read it." My reply was, "Brother, I read it just like you said it was. You told me that you were a Christian once. You said you were saved about six months and then lost your salvation. I only added what you added. According to what you say the promise of Jesus means that the man who believes on Him will not perish for about six months, but have life for six months." The

(Continued on page 11)

follow the directions of the Holy Spirit. May God make The Sword always the answer that is needed for readers. Will you join us in prayer for God's continued guidance in this matter?

### You Will Like These Two New Books

I have just seen the first copy of our new book, *Eternal Retribution*, by a famous Methodist preacher of seventy-five years ago, William Elbert Munsey. Here are

some of the most moving and logical and Scriptural messages on this tremendous theme. The book of 128 pages sells for \$1.50, and we believe you ought to have it.

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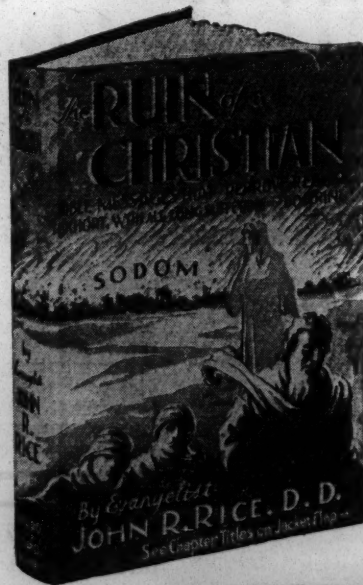
# PLOWING DEEP

Certainly the weeds of sin bear bitter fruit. And with the thorns of vice and crime infesting our youth, with divorce rates climbing, dope addiction, drunkenness, immorality rampant, Christians certainly cannot afford to be living ineffectual lives. These are indeed times of crisis—so critical that every believer must bear his most effective witness. He must be equally ready to root out the tares of the tempter, and to sow instead the blessed seeds of the Gospel. As THE MOODY MONTHLY said, "To break up dry and fallow ground one must plow hard and deep. The hurt of the plow is forgotten in the joy of the harvest." **The Ruin of a Christian**, by Evangelist John R. Rice is a book that plows deep.

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Dr. Rice, a pastor and evangelist of wide renown, does not hesitate to denounce sin in Christians and non-Christians alike. He speaks fearlessly and forcefully, yet is tender and touching. His preaching is pungent and convicting, and the results are arousing. For this reason the CALVARY PULPIT said that *THE RUIN OF A CHRISTIAN* "...has something of the spirit of the old-time prophets whose messages both bless and burn." Of the same practical opinion was Dr. J. C. MACAULAY who wrote, "Not only have you given us sound doctrine and keen application, but you have coupled Apostolic boldness with rare tenderness."

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1. The Ruin of a Christian
2. Lukewarmness—The Sin That Makes God Vomit
3. God's Slaughter Crew
4. The Curse of Hidden Sins
5. The Sin of Lying
6. "Break Up Your Fallow Ground, and Sow Not Among Thorns"
7. The Seven-Fold Sin of Those Who Do Not Win Souls
8. "Speak Not Evil One of Another, Brethren"
9. Judge Not!
10. "Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers"
11. Washing Dirty Feet
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## A Castaway

(Continued from page 1)

would be a castaway. What did he mean?

One day I was calling on a brother clergyman. He took me out into his garden to an out-house, against the side of which was resting one of the old-fashioned bicycles with a very tall wheel. I said to him: "Do you ever ride this?"

Said he: "No; see how rusty it is. I have not been on it for many months. I have got something better, something that suits my purpose better," pointing to another and a newer bicycle on the other side of the house.

I said to myself: "Then this is a castaway."

When stylographic pens first came out, I purchased one in the hope that it would serve me perfectly. But I was sadly disappointed. Sometimes when I attempted to use it, it was unwilling to serve me. At other times it was profuse in inking the finger. Finally I discarded it in hopelessness and purchased another pen. The one I now hold serves me perfectly, and I have no difficulty whatever in performing by its means any writing upon which I have set my heart. But I keep the other one. It lies in the drawer of my bureau, and often when I am putting my things together to go upon some journey, I think I hear it saying to itself as it lies there:

"Ah, he is going away without me again! There was a time when he never left home without taking me with him; he never wrote a letter without me; he never composed an article but that I first knew its contents; but for these many days and months I have been lying here unused."

That disused stylographic pen is my conception of what Paul meant when he said he feared being a castaway.

You must know that this man loved to save men. It was the passion of his life. Send him to Philippi, and he will not be there a day before he has turned the devil out of the poor demoniac girl. Let him be put in jail, and before midnight he will have baptized his jailer. Send him to Athens, and though he is all alone, he will gather a congregation upon Mars' Hill within a week or two. Put him alongside of Aquila and Priscilla at the bench, and he will

make tents and talk to them in such good wise that they will become Christians. Stand him before his judge, and the latter will cry: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian!" Let him go to Rome, tied to a Roman sentry, and he will speak to these men, one after another, in such fashion that the whole Pretorian camp will be infused with the love of God. His passion was to save men. I do not believe that if he were alive today, he would be in a street-car, or a railway-car, or on board a steamer without button-holing some man and speaking to him about his soul and his Saviour. The whole passion of the man was to save some; but he feared that unless he took good care, the hour might come in his life when Christ would say:

"Thou hast served me well, but thou shalt serve me no more. Of late thou hast become indolent, and choked with pride, and I have not secured thy whole obedience. I am now compelled to call upon some soul more alert, more obedient than thee; and that man I will use to do the work that thou mightest have done, but which thou didst fail to accomplish."

This comes home upon us, brother ministers. I am speaking to some who in their earlier life were wondrously used of God in soul-winning, as they went from the seminary or the college, and took their first church. Sunday after Sunday the inquiry-room was crowded. The simple villagers, from their lips, heard the Word of God, and were converted, and the communicant's roll was weekly increased. The boys of the neighborhood were attracted, and won like jewels for Christ. Am I not speaking to women who in their first burst of love to Christ wore the signs of holy earnestness in their circles of society, so that all who came in contact with them were made to feel the power of a genuine love to God? May we not all look back to days upon days, long passed, when we were the channels through which Jesus spoke, and wrought, and the Holy Ghost was poured upon men? But what has happened? We preach the same old sermons, but Christ is apparently indifferent to them. We go through the same mechanical routine, but there is no stir of life. These many days have passed, and there have been no additions to our church roll. We have won men to ourselves, but not to Christ. And so it seems as though whilst men

flattered us, and whilst we had a certain complacency in their applause, Heaven passed on unheeding, the souls of men were unreached, and our churches were just dying of inanition; the old passing on to God, but the young untouched, unsaved.

May not the question therefore come to us now: "Perhaps, after all, Christ has ceased to use me! Christ has no further purpose for me! I am too clumsy, too obtuse, too disobedient, too full of myself, too much out of touch with Him! And so I am to be put on the shelf!" Like those great stones in the quarry at Baalbec—almost completely quarried, but yet the temple was finished without them! May not this question go through the audience: "Am I a castaway? I belong to Christ, and when I die I believe I will go home to Him. I know that He has saved me by His precious blood; but has He ceased to use me?"

Look for a moment upon the pages of Scripture, and see how they are

### Littered With Castaways!

Let us then understand why men are cast away.

I take the first case, that of Esau. He comes in from hunting. He is born to the birthright. The birthright includes the power of standing between God and the clan, speaking to God for men. He is famished. Yonder is the steaming mess of pottage prepared by his brother Jacob.

"Give me that red lentile pottage," he cries.

Jacob, crafty in heart, bargains: "Give me your spiritual birthright."

Is there not here some Christian who in the past has had some steaming mess of pottage appealing to the senses? There is not one of us who has not been tempted by some temptation to sense. Aye, it may be there is many a man who is glancing back into his past life, and who knows that he has yielded—not once or twice, but oftener—to the appeal to the senses. He has taken a drink, or indulged some other appetite, and has despised his birthright.

I once heard a story that made my heart ache, of a gray-headed man who had been greatly used of God. In his home he had fallen into one gross act of immorality. Another went to accuse him of his crime. They were sitting together at the tea-table. His portion was not sufficiently sweet; and in the midst of this talk upon which depended whether or not the one should be held guilty, and whether he should be permitted to con-

tinue in his ministry, he said slightly: "My tea is sour. Give me some more sugar."

He cared more at that awful moment of his life whether or not the tea was sour or sweet enough, while his power as a minister of God's holy gospel was trembling in the balance. He did eat and drink, and despised his birthright.

Have you never eaten and drunken, and despised your birthright? Are you quite sure that some silent and beautiful form has not come into your life and destroyed your heart's true love? Are you quite sure that there is not in you some hungry appetite that has sought satisfaction?

"Give it me. I must have it. I cannot live without it. Even though I have not quite the spiritual power that I had, give it me."

So men despise their birthright still, and they are cast away. Esau became a prince in this world, and the father of a line of dukes, and all the world flattered him and thought him a prosperous and successful man, but God wrote over him the awful epitaph:

"This man is a castaway. He did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus he despised his birthright."

I turn the page of Scripture, and come to the first king of Israel, Saul. A noble man in many respects, he was sent by God to fulfill His mission, but he put a reserve upon his obedience, and told Samuel with a kind of pious blarney: "Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

The old prophet at that moment detected the lowing of the herd and the bleating of the flock, and said very significantly: "Performed the commandment of the Lord! What means then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

I am here to bring you face to face with the eternal God, to lead your consciences before the Great White Throne, and let the light of the eternal purity of God blaze like a flashlight upon them. It will be for you to determine if under the profession of obedience there are some flocks and herds that you are reserving for yourselves. It is possible when you go to a man's home, or when you even smell his breath, or when you hear him speak, to know whether or not he has given up all for God. Some unfortunate sheep starts bleating. Saul professed obedience, but kept back something for himself; and God rejected him. He lingered ten years more on the throne, but he was a castaway. A young David was already anointed to succeed him.

So when I pass through the Word of God and take case after case, my heart bleeds and cries out because I know not who may be here. I would speak with all tenderness and all pity and all love. I have not come to scathe anyone. I have not come to denounce. It is because I know what the horror of that pit is, and what the horror of being cast away from God's service means, that I now speak in this way. You expected that I would bring you a system of spiritual truth,—and I have such a system to present; you expected that I was going to teach you how to receive the Holy Ghost of Pentecost, so that every day might be a Pentecost,—and I have that blessed message to tell you; but I dare not come to those deep and blessed subjects until I have introduced into your heart a spirit of self-scrutiny and searching, that everyone may ask himself:

"Can it be that though I am a minister, or an officer of the church, and bear around the holy elements on Sunday at the Communion service, and give my money to philanthropic objects—can it be that in God's sight I am a castaway?"

Coming out of a meeting recently a brother minister came up to me, took me by the hand, shook it warmly, and said: "I have enjoyed your meeting so much."

Directly he said that I knew that I had failed. When a man says that he has enjoyed a meeting like this, I know that I have not touched him.

You remember when Jacob got down into the Jabbok ford, how beneath those Syrian stars he wrestled with the angel, and the

## The Teacher Learned a Lesson

It all started when the high school history teacher called the Bible a book of fables. The only Christian boy in the class went home that evening greatly troubled, and at the dinner table poured out the story to his parents. The godly father immediately gave the boy his copy of the book, *Is Jesus God?*—told him to read it and then suggested that he take it the next morning to the history teacher.

Skeptical but curious, the teacher did read the book and finally in the wee hours of the night flung himself across his bed in tears of genuine repentance. So through one book a high school boy's faith was held intact, an infidel teacher accepted Christ as his Saviour, and an entire high school was influenced for God.

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angel with him. Presently the angel put forth his hand and touched the sinew of his strength, and he limped. Do you think it is possible that Jacob could have limped into the camp next morning, and going to his loved Rachel, have said to her: "O Rachel, we have had a lovely time all night. I have enjoyed it!"

Rather he must have said to her: "I have had a night which has blasted my strength, which has left a scar upon me which I shall carry till I die. O woman, I have fought with the angel of God's love!"

This may be the beginning of

### A New Era in Many a Life.

But we must begin at the bottom; we must begin at the root of our self-confidence. The prime cause of all failure in private life as well as in public ministry is the assertion of self. As long as men and women think it is all right with them, nothing can be done for them. It is only when there is excited within them a fear that after all things may not be quite so well as they seem, a dread that after all they may have made a mistake and be self-deceived, it is only then that in the secret of their own chambers they begin to ask God: "Am I just what I expected?" It is then that the heart is laid open, and they may be brought to understand how a man may be almost a castaway and yet be taken back to the bosom of Christ as Peter was; for within six weeks the man who was nearly cast away became the Apostle of Pentecost.

(Continued on page 10)

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## Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy

(Continued from page 4)

of captivity there was a general decay of piety, as appears by the story of Ezra and Nehemiah; and therefore it was no strange thing that after the planting of Christianity there should come a falling away."

What became of all the converts of John the Baptist? We remember that when John was preaching by Jordan, "Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan. And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins" (Matt. 3:5,6). Some would lightly smile at John the Baptist's revival, and scoff at his converts. But I remind you that he preached exactly the same gospel as Jesus did, as we see from John 3:36 which quotes his words, that Jesus Himself said there was never a greater prophet born of woman; and that the impact of His ministry was so powerful that multitudes thought he was the Messiah. Not only Jesus but all of the twelve apostles were baptized by John the Baptist,

it is inferred. The revival under John the Baptist was powerful. John the Baptist was great in the sight of the Lord, was filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb and 'turned many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God' as the angel plainly revealed to Zacharias before his birth (Luke 1:15, 16). But what had happened to these many converts of John the Baptist when Jesus was crucified some three or four years later? Doubtless many of them were truly converted people, but they did not have much faith in the resurrection of Christ; they did not stand by Him when He was arrested and crucified. The frailty of the best Christians in the world is here illustrated. Yet a mighty revival could be had at Pentecost despite their failure and the failure of the disciples whom Jesus had won Himself.

If you think that revivals are not possible when Christian people grow cold, or fall into false doctrine, or bicker and divide and

sin, then you should remember what Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, gathered to meet him at Miletus:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."—Acts 20:28-30.

Paul had a mighty revival among fickle, immature Christians, and he knew that after his departure some of these very same elders would arise to speak perverse things and draw away disciples, and grievous wolves would enter the flock. Christians then were the same kind of frail creatures that they are today. Backsliding and apostasy were the constant tendency.

Paul, in deadly urgency, wrote to Timothy about this very thing. In II Timothy 4:1-5 he said:

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Paul was ready to be offered. He knew that the apostasy prevailed everywhere, then as now. Yet Timothy was enjoined to watch, to endure afflictions, to do the work of an evangelist. Then good Christians might have sung that old hymn which says:

"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love." But that did not prevent revivals. God can have revivals with poor, frail, human instruments. He can revive His saints. He can use them in soul winning. The declension and backsliding are so natural to men that they never surprise God, and we may be sure they never make powerless His gospel, if a few Christians will pay God's price for the revival.

### II. Failures in New Testament Times Could Prevent All Great Revivals Since

We had as well admit that Christians often failed God in New Testament times. Critics might well have said then, as they sometimes say now, "Christianity has failed."

After Paul warned Timothy, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables," then Paul spoke to Timothy about his own strait. He was in jail at Rome, about to be executed. Rather sadly he said, "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me" (II Tim. 4:9-11). He said, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (II Tim. 4:14-17).

We might suppose that Paul was writing in 1950. Alexander the coppersmith hated Paul and

opposed him, just as people turn against evangelists today. When Paul was tried for his life and stood to answer for himself, there was not a single witness who would stand up for Paul! All men forsook him! There was not a Christian who would risk his life to stand with Paul. Alone he gave his testimony and was delivered temporarily. But a little later he was taken out to the executioner's block and his head was chopped off.

The worldliness and unspiritual state of Christians became so bad that even John the beloved disciple, the only apostle left alive, was not allowed to speak in some of the churches. He writes in the Third Epistle of John, "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words; and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."

Does not that sound much like some churches and Christians today, where godly soul-winning evangelists are kept out, and where there are divisions and strife? Does not that remind you of worldly-minded church officers who hound the pastors in some churches today, and limit the power of God? The decline in

spirituality, the increase of worldliness and selfishness among Christians is a normal thing that has happened in all the ages.

Does someone tell me that churches are failing in these days? Well, then, consider that every single church that was known to New Testament times has utterly disappeared! Where is the church at Jerusalem, filled with Spirit-filled disciples, at the birthplace of Christianity? It is gone! Long centuries ago, longer than even history has any record of, that church disappeared. Likely it happened in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was taken by Titus and much of it destroyed.

Where are the seven churches of Asia? Even the church of Philadelphia, so greatly commended, has disappeared, as well as all the other churches in Asia Minor.

Where are the churches established in Paul's ministry? Where is the mighty church of Ephesus? Where is the church at Corinth? Where is the Christianity which flamed so brightly all around the Mediterranean Sea, established by Paul's journeys? Gone! All gone!

Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, "Your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." And at Rome the Christianity so greatly favored of God drifted more and more into formalism and ritualism, and became what is now Roman Catholic apostasy. Roman Catholicism

(Continued on page 11)

## A Castaway

(Continued from page 9)

Paul said: "Lest I should be a castaway. Therefore, though I have a perfect right to go to an idol temple, I shall not go for fear other men seeing me go may follow me, and what might be innocent to me might be death to them. Lest I should ruin any man's soul by going, I will abstain. I have a perfect right, if I choose, to take a wife; but I shall not do it. I will live a bachelor life, and toil with my hands, because by being lonesome myself I may touch some other man who is lonesome too, and by working with my own hands I shall stay upon the bench beside others who will be drawn to me by sympathy. There are many things which this body of mine may have in innocence, but I shall not take them because I wish to keep my body under, lest it should master me and cause me to be a castaway."

Christ waits—the sweet, strong, pure Son of God—His heart yearning over men and yearning to pour itself through us to save them. But many of us have choked Him, resisted Him, thwarted Him. One feels like asking the whole audience to fall before Him in confession, and to ask that this holy day may not pass until He has restored us to fellowship with Himself.

My friend, Dr. Harry Grattan Guinness, told me once that all the water supply had become choked out of their college in Derbyshire, England. They could

not obtain one drop of water from the bottom to the top of the house. They searched the cisterns, and inspected the taps and the whole machinery, and found no cause. At last they went to the junction between the main reservoir-pipe and their house-pipe, and there in the orifice, in the joint between the two, squatted a huge toad, which (as they were told) had probably come in as a tadpole, had fed upon the water, and had grown to this size, so that the whole water was stopped because it choked the orifice.

Your life has been dry lately; no tear, no prayer, no fervor. You have not met Christ, you have not seen His face for many a long day, He has not used you. It must be because there is something in your heart, innocent once but injurious now. May God show you what it is! Get quiet, and prostrate yourself before God. If people want to speak to you, brush past them. If they want to detain you with small talk, leave them. Cast yourself down in some solitary place before God, and say: "May God forgive me! May God show me the sin, show me what it is that hinders me, show me what has nearly wrecked my life. Whatever comes, may I not be a castaway, but still used by Thee through the Holy Ghost for Christ."

(From the Moody Colportage book, *The Christ-Life for the Self-Life*. Used by permission.)

## What Sword did for one Couple

The following letter shows how THE SWORD OF THE LORD has blessed one family. I suggest you read it and then prayerfully consider how you might, for a very small investment, change the lives of some family.

May 25, 1951

"Dear Dr. Rice,

"I am a steady reader of your paper; I have learned more from it than I ever did from any other source. I have several of your books and, from the book on *The Home*, I learned my place in the home. Until I read this book, I left the Christian teaching of my children up to their mother, the way my father did. From reading your book and the scriptures supporting your ideas, I learned my duties in the home. My children, wife, and I get out our Bibles and read from them each night, taking turns. After asking God to help us understand what we read, we read five chapters each night. After much praying, studying, and reading, I got to where I could see a meaning in what we were reading and could explain a lot. Much of my understanding came from sermons I read in your paper, THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

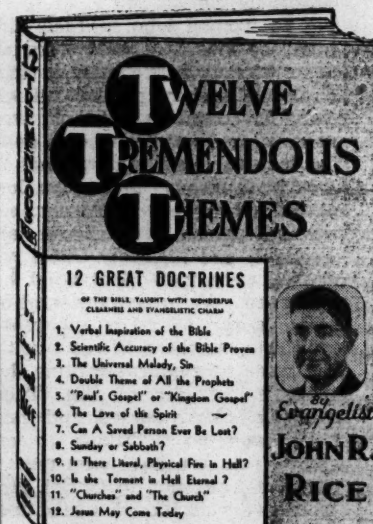
"Your small book, *Seven Secrets of a Happy Christian Life*, proved a blessing to a lady who had been a church member since childhood, but had never been a church worker. Since she read the book, she has been one of the happiest, most active workers in the church. Most important, she's now a soul winner. She and my sister, who has long been a soul winner, win colored people as well as whites to Christ.

"I get a lot of encouragement to continue distributing the SWORD past copies you send me, which I have distributed from Atlanta, Georgia to Danville, Virginia.

"Your brother in Christ,"  
(Signed) R. S. Shoemaker  
Spencer, North Carolina

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## The Greatest Text

(Continued from page 8)

man was very unlearned, yet he saw the point at once. Within a few minutes he was rejoicing in a Christ who guarantees to save and secure.

### Everlasting Life

The positive note in the promise of Christ in John 3:16 says that "whosoever believeth in Him will have everlasting life." This means that he will positively go to heaven—that he will live on beyond death—that his life will never cease. I doubt if any of us have ever fathomed the depths of the meaning of "everlasting life."

Certainly Jesus promises a life that the sinner has not had before. It is God's own life implanted in the heart of the believer. This new life comes into our hearts when we are born again. The Bible teaches that until this new birth takes place all sinners are dead in trespasses and sin (Eph. 2:1). Actually we don't begin to live until we believe on Jesus and receive this new, everlasting life. A very popular book of recent years is entitled, "LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY." The author seeks to prove that one really just enters the prime of life at forty years of age. There may be some truth in this, but according to the Bible life begins not at forty, BUT AT CALVARY. Life begins when one trusts the Lord Jesus Christ to save Him. At that moment Christ's Divine life flows into the heart of the sinner as he is born again. He then becomes a babe in Christ and a possessor of a life that shall never cease. Nothing can bring an end to everlasting life, else it would not be everlasting.

I was born and reared in Florida. Early in life I heard the story of Ponce De Leon, and his search for the Fountain of Youth. The Indians had told him that there was a spring whose water would make one young again, and keep him always youthful. The great explorer was getting old and sought earnestly for this "Fountain of Youth." In St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest city in the United States, is located a well-reputed to be the "Fountain of Youth." I have had several drinks from this well, but feel no younger. Poor Ponce De Leon is long since dead. He really never found the "Fountain of Youth." BUT PRAISE GOD I HAVE FOUND IT, AND AM YOUNG FOREVER. When ten millions of years have rolled by I will just be getting out of God's "Cradle Roll Department." This "Fountain of Youth" flows from Calvary, and

is revealed and promised in John 3:16, "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." There it is! Everlasting life! What more could anyone want.

### Will Never Die

If this promise of Jesus is true then those who trust Jesus to save them will never die spiritually, but live on beyond sin, beyond death, beyond the grave, throughout eternity. A preacher said he never appreciated the meaning of everlasting life until he visited a very aged minister who was on his dying bed. The old fellow was deaf. As the Pastor came in to see him, the old soldier of the Cross mustered all of the strength he had, and lifted himself up a bit, and then shouted as loudly as he could: "I will never die. I have everlasting life." At first the Pastor thought the old fellow was out of his head, but then it dawned on him what he meant. There he was ready to pass from his earthly tabernacle into a house not made with hands, and the old man had the assurance that he was not really going to die, but only to change dwelling places for HE HAD EVERLASTING LIFE. And everlasting life cannot cease, even at death.

When we stand beside the casket containing the form of a loved one, let's remember that Jesus promised "EVERLASTING LIFE" to all who believe in Him. If our loved one died in Christ, then they live on and on and on.

The last truth I want you to notice in John 3:16 is that it contains . . .

### IV. The World's Greatest Plan, "That Whosoever Believeth In Him."

There is much confusion about how a person is saved, how he receives the benefits of Christ's death for him, how he gets this everlasting life about which we have been talking. But there is no need for confusion for Jesus makes it very clear. He told Nicodemus in the third chapter of John that the human side of the new birth, the way to enter the Kingdom of God, to be saved, to never perish, to have everlasting life, is to "BELIEVE IN HIM." It is by simple faith that we are saved. Perhaps it would be better to say through faith, for it is by Jesus that we are saved, by faith in Christ as our Saviour.

### Salvation by Faith

How I thank God that salvation is by simple faith, and not by the many other plans advocat-

## Home Book Leads Mother to Win Daughter

The following letter from Mrs. Ernest Bayless, Sr. of Mountain Grove, Missouri, shows how the book, *THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children*, by the editor, has blessed another family.

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I have been a reader of your magazine for a long time and I think it is one of the best.

"I have read your book on *THE HOME* and thought it wonderful. The day I read your chapter on how to win children to Christ, my twelve-year-old daughter came home from school deeply under conviction. My husband and I quickly led her to the Lord. She is very happy and so are we. And thank you for the book."

The Bible has the answer to all your home problems. Find that Bible answer in this big Bible manual, *THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children*, 381 large pages, 22 chapters. Price, \$2.50.

Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois

ed by some today. If salvation were by our own merit, as so many think, then none could ever be saved for there are none good. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." If salvation were in a church then many people who belong to the wrong church would not get to heaven. Since it is by *Grace through faith*, there are going to be some saved people out of all churches in heaven. If salvation were by baptism then those who have any baptism other than that taught in the New Testament would be lost, but since it is by *Grace through faith*, many will be saved who never had Scriptural baptism.

I believe God used simple faith as the channel through which to save sinners because it gives all of the glory to God. None of us can boast of our salvation save in the Cross of Christ.

### Why God Uses Faith

I believe He used faith as the channel through which to save us because all of us are accustomed to using faith every day of our lives. Our social and national life is run on faith. Banks operate by faith. When I give a check to pay my gas bill the man who accepts it puts faith in me and in the bank. When you go to work for someone you have faith in them that they will pay you your wages on pay day. When you place a letter in the Post Office you trust the postal clerks and employees to deliver it. Thousands of Christmas packages were mailed to men and women overseas. The government promised to deliver them by Christmas if people would place them in the Post Office by a certain date. You put your faith in this promise and delivered your package to the Post Office.

This is exactly what FAITH IN CHRIST IS. You know that He has promised to save you if you will believe in Him. To believe in Him is simply to commit the keeping of your soul to Him. It is to place your soul in His care just as you placed that letter or package in the care of the Post Office. You know that you cannot take your soul to Heaven any more than you can take your letter to your loved one in a foreign land. But the Lord Jesus Christ is able to save you and land you safely in Heaven. He declared to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

O, sinner friend, don't you want to be saved today? Wouldn't you like to know right now that come what may you will never perish but have everlasting life? Why go on in your lost condition when God so loved you that he gave His Son to die to save you? Right this moment He will save you if you will ONLY TRUST HIM. Won't you do it?

"Only trust Him, only trust Him, There is mercy with the Lord." (From the pamphlet, *Going the Second Mile*. Used by permission of the author.)

## Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy

(Continued from page 10)

cism with the papacy, with worship of Mary, with prayers to saints, with the idolatry of images, with purchased masses, with confession to priests instead of to God, offering at best a dubious purgatory instead of outright regeneration, and assurance of salvation, is a constant witness to the frailty of human nature, the constant tendency to spiritual decline and false doctrine, unbelief and worldliness.

Don't you see that if cold churches, formal churches, modernistic churches, if unbelief in pulpit and pew in these modern days could prevent revival, they would have prevented all the great revivals since New Testament times! For in all Bible ages Christ has not failed, but the church has failed. Christianity has not failed, but the preachers, the Christians, the teachers have failed.

Thank God that He is able to revive backslidden saints! Thank God that He is able to save cold, formalistic unconverted church members! Thank God that all the wickedness, all the false cults, all the worldliness, all the sin of these days cannot prevent revival if a few of God's people pay God's price for power and blessing!

### III. The Dark Ages Could Not Prevent the Reformation Revival

Few people realize how black was the midnight of spiritual darkness, spiritual ignorance, in the Dark Ages. Never in the world was the "failure of Christianity" so obvious to unbelievers as in the Dark Ages when Rome had stifled opposition, when there was a famine of the Word of God, when in all the world there were only a little handful of spiritually-intelligent believers. Here and there, like a tiny candle gleaming in the dark, was a group of "heretics" who still read the Scriptures copied by hand, who believed in individual regeneration by faith in Christ and who could be called New Testament Christians.

Practically every town of ten thousand or twenty thousand people in America today has more gospel preaching true to the Word of God than a nation of millions had during the Dark Ages. Sunday school scholars know more Bible usually than priests and monks usually knew in those days. What chance was there for revival when indulgences to sin were openly sold; when salvation was not put on the basis of faith in Christ, but on the basis of confession to a Roman priest and payment for masses in the church? What chance was there for revival when not only kings, but often the popes themselves were licentious and immoral?

Yet out of the welter of those Dark Ages God gave, in the Reformation, one of the greatest revivals the world has ever seen. God raised up Luther, Calvin and others and turned literally millions of people to personal faith in Christ and to a knowledge of salvation by faith, in Germany, the Scandinavian countries, Scotland and England, and parts of many other countries. There was really a counter-Reformation in the Catholic church that profoundly moved the whole corrupt organization. Protestantism as we know it in the main, particularly with reference to Lutheran, Reformed, Presbyterian and Anglican churches, came out of the mighty revival of the Reformation.

Thank God, no such spiritual darkness as that of the Middle Ages is on the world today, not in America, not in England, not in any English-speaking country! If world conditions, if spiritual decline, if false doctrine could not prevent revival in the Dark Ages, surely world conditions today cannot stop the power of God, the progress of the gospel and the salvation of multitudes of sinners, if some of God's people will pay God's price for soul-winning power.

### IV. Wickedness and Unbelief Could Not Prevent the Great Modern Revivals

All through recorded history one truth stands out forever the same. God has given revivals in spite of man's wickedness, in spite of man's

unworthiness, his unbelief and unfaithfulness.

Consider England in Wesley's day. In the book, *This Freedom Whence*, by John Wesley Brady, you would do well to read of the alarming state of England when Wesley began preaching. The complete breakdown of government and morals which took place in France and brought about the French Revolution bade fair to bring a similar convulsion in England. The established church, the Anglican church, was unutterably corrupt. The church was, of course, supported by taxation and church leaders appointed as something like political patronage by government leaders. Bishops had estates with enormous incomes, had them by appointment of political leaders and kept them by subservience to political ends. The clergy were everywhere simply political appointees, without any reference to spiritual fitness, and generally did not even profess to be converted, born-again men. Gambling was everywhere prevalent among the clergy. Drinking, even drunkenness, was very common. Most of the clergy were Deists. They believed in a supreme being but did not believe the Bible, did not believe in the deity of Christ, the new birth. The church ceremonies were simply a stiff form. People in the parish were sprinkled as babies, "christened," and were counted members of the church. We have no record of anybody in the Anglican church at the time doing revival preaching, preaching the new birth, calling sinners to repentance. Puritan pastors had been barred from preaching in principal towns and had often been fined and jailed, and worse, for simply preaching the gospel. We remember that John Bunyan was kept twelve years in Bedford jail simply to keep him from preaching.

English vessels carried on the slave trade for most of the world. Armed thugs would land in Africa, raid villages, murder those who opposed them and carry off slaves. With brutality, herded in pens and holds like animals, the slaves were carried to the West Indies, to the American colonies, to England and elsewhere. Many died and were pitched overboard en route. Smuggling, gambling, thieving, licentiousness were everywhere common. The Shakespeare plays give an idea of how common was adultery. Thousands were jailed for debt. A man could be jailed or hanged for catching a wild rabbit on an earl's estate. Little children slaved in mines and mills as much as twelve or fourteen hours a day.

There were no Sunday schools of any kind, no free day schools, and most people could not read nor write. When Wesley would preach he was often assaulted physically just for preaching the gospel. Mobs were raised again and again against him and his fellow preachers. Occasionally a Methodist meetinghouse would be utterly destroyed and the officers often favored the culprits.

England was as unlikely a place for a great revival as one could imagine. The Puritan revival had been suppressed with great violence. Independent-minded and Bible-believing preachers were everywhere abused, jailed, run out of the country, or their property confiscated. England was hardly civilized, utterly foreign to what we now know as England. Yet God breathed upon John and Charles Wesley, on Whitefield and the preachers whom God raised up with them, and a mighty revival transformed England. Besides leading to the salvation of millions of souls, the Wesleyan revival indirectly started a Sunday school movement, caused prison reforms, stopped the slave trade, caused immense reforms in government, and largely created what we know as traditional English character, justice and society.

The unbelief, the lewdness, the immorality and dishonesty among the people and among church and government leaders when the Wesleyan revival began were far more discouraging than is true in

(Continued on page 12)

## "Gospel Herald" comments--

Immanuel, "God with Us," by John R. Rice; Sword of the Lord Publishers; 1950; 157 pp.; \$1.50.

John R. Rice, an active evangelist in evangelical circles of our day, presents six sermons in this volume. While the evangelistic emphasis is primary, he is also interested in presenting Christ to the Christian in such a way as to deepen his love for the Saviour, and give him a better understanding of His incarnation, life, death, grace, and coming again.

The various sermons evidence a ready acceptance of all Scripture as the Word of God, acceptance of the truth of prophecy, the virgin birth, the incarnation, and many such Bible truths that are often set aside by others in our day.

While these objectionable portions may not be overlooked, there is much sound and helpful teaching in the book. The treatment isn't exactly comprehensive and thorough, but he goes into each topic enough to at least be very helpful. Ministers particularly will find suggestive material in this volume for truly Christ-centered and evangelistic sermons. I would give the book qualified approval and recommend it for the discriminating mature reader.—J. Robert Kreider.



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## Present-Day Wickedness, Apostasy

(Continued from page 11)

America today. In view of the mighty revival God gave in Wesley's day, it is foolish and faithless to believe that God could not now stir America and England and anywhere else in the world where men shake God and pay God's price for revival, as mightily as He did in Wesley's day. The trouble is not with the hardness of world conditions and wicked hearts. The trouble is with the laborers. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

The Wesleyan revival came to America through Whitefield, Coke, Asbury and others. But you will remember that in America, Tom Paine, one of the leaders of the American Revolution, was at the height of his popularity. He wrote *The Age of Reason* in which he set out to prove the Bible false. The multitudes read his books and pamphlets with enthusiasm. At one time his popularity rivaled that of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin. Leaders of thought in early America were also Deists, denying the inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, and the need for regeneration. Yet Benjamin Franklin heard Whitefield preach and was profoundly moved. He did not make a public profession of faith, but Franklin's *Autobiography* shows that Franklin in his later years believed in the God of the Bible, that he earnestly urged people to pray and to read the Bible. George Washington himself became an earnest man of prayer and was, we believe, a believing Christian. God brought a revival in early America in spite of infidelity and flagrant wickedness. Why would the Almighty God be hindered by human conditions now if His people meet His requirements for revival?

Consider the revival from 1857-1859, which began outwardly in the Fulton Street prayer meeting in New York City. It began only three years before the Civil War, and the flames of hate, strife and every wicked passion were rising high. That marvelous revival came in the midst of all the agitation for and against war, and it did not prevent the mighty Civil War.

Consider the state of America in the days of D. L. Moody. Robert Ingersoll, an infidel, was at the height of his popularity following the Civil War in which he had a distinguished military record. He came near being governor of Indiana, and many think he would have been president but for his position as an outspoken infidel. All over America he lectured to great crowds against the Bible and the Christian religion. Infidel clubs were formed all over America. Unbelief has never been more arrogant, more outspoken than it was in America when D. L. Moody began his great ministry.

Moody worked among soldiers during the Civil War. He did not become widely-known until after the war. All the aftermath of the war, with its hatred, its economic dislocation, with the oppression of southern states and flaming sectional hatred, did not prevent a revival. American frontiers were pushed westward with lawlessness and bloodshed, crimes against Indians, and whole communities were often kept in terror by murdering outlaws.

When Moody went to England, infidels, openly scoffing at the Bible and God and Christ, were so bold that infidel clubs were more popular and active than lodges are today. In fact, Mr. Soltan, in *The Sword Book of Treasures*, published by Sword of the Lord Publishers, tells how Moody preached one night to five thousand infidels in a service advertised especially for them. And they came, on order of their infidel leader, as a joke and to put the evangelists, Moody and Sankey, to shame. They knew no gospel hymns. Aside from a few Christian workers, no one was invited but infidels. Yet God's mighty power came upon them and some five hundred turned to the Lord, and the infidel clubs were broken.

Those who imagine that revivals are simply the product of certain happy circumstances are foolish. They ignore the teaching of the Word of God and ignore the facts back of all great revivals. The

moral and spiritual conditions when the D. L. Moody revival came to America and England were tremendously bad, even in many ways worse than conditions today. Conditions did not deter the power of God then, and cannot prevent His blessing now, if His people pay the price for revival.

God must feel it as an insult to His power and grace that people think revivals can only be had in propitious circumstances! On the verge of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of Judah, about which Jeremiah had been forewarned, and which he faithfully preached, God instructed Jeremiah to buy a field and do it openly and officially as an evidence that "houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land" (Jer. 32:15). In view of the wasting and the utter destruction which was even then taking place, when the temple would be destroyed, the gates of the city burned with fire, the walls torn down, the people slaughtered or dispersed to Babylon, revival of the nation seemed impossible. But Jeremiah said, "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." God answered back, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:17, 27).

Elijah had people pour twelve barrels of water over the sacrifice on Mount Carmel before he called on God to send a fire from Heaven. He knew that God could start a fire with wet wood as well as with dry. He knew that God could give a revival in the midst of the awful depravity and idolatry and sin of Samaria. And God's believing people know that God can do the same thing today.

What kind of a God is this we worship? Can puny men block the power of God when His people trust Him? Are sinners so strong and impervious to God's call that the Spirit of God cannot bring conviction, cannot pale the sinner's cheek, cannot put tears in the sinner's eye, cannot set a burning in the sinner's conscience? What kind of a God is this we preach and serve? Is He so weak that the weather, the competition of radio and sports and television and business and vacationing, has left Him helpless? Can God not compete in this brave modern world of which we boast? Shame on us for the thought! Down through the centuries God has proved Himself the God over all the circumstances, over all the people. He is the God above all human rulers. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20). Man proposes, but God disposes. Man's extremity is God's opportunity.

If I had a God who could not save a drunkard, I would never preach Him to little children. If I had a God who could not cleanse the harlot, I would never preach Him to a chaste wife and mother. If Jesus Christ cannot save Catholics and Jews, criminals and infidels, then I would never risk my own soul into His hand. If God cannot give great city-wide revivals with mighty results and thousands saved from the public preaching of the Word in mass evangelism, I would never preach Him in a class in child evangelism, or a class of Junior boys and girls!

What sin, what reproach upon God, what a mark of our unbelief, when we indicate that conditions are too hard for God, that conditions prevent a revival! History down through all the ages cries that it is a lie! All the revivals in Bible times, the great Reformation revival with Luther and Calvin and others, the Wesleyan revival that saved England from its French Revolution and made English and American civilization and freedom what it is today, the Moody revivals and more—these were all brought about in the face of horrible, widespread and flagrant sin, in the face of spiritual decline and unbelief in the churches and out.


Are you impressed with all the power and might and wickedness

and the bent away from God of this present modern world? Then listen to the words of Jesus Christ, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The world? Remember that "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

World conditions have never yet stopped a revival when God's people met God's requirements and had His mighty power for soul winning. World conditions cannot stop a revival now. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers in-

to his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

The above is Chapter VII in Dr. Rice's big book, *We Can Have Revival Now*, 201 pages, 10 chapters. The book is creating much interest, answering many questions about ultradispensationalism, excuses for not having revivals, false teaching about "the last days," etc. We suggest you get a copy from your book dealer or from Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, Price, \$2.00.)



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